



Jordan Times

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Christopher tipped to lead State Department

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — President-elect Bill Clinton was expected to announce a national security team on Tuesday that will inherit the military deployment in Somalia and the growing international effort to stop the slaughter in Bosnia. A news conference was set for Tuesday afternoon for the announcements. Six cabinet posts remained empty after Mr. Clinton on Monday named former South Carolina Governor Dick Riley to head the Education Department and Minnesota Utility executive Hazel O'Leary as secretary of the Energy Department. Two key foreign policy positions — the secretaries of state and defence — are still to be filled. Transition Director Warren Christopher, a lawyer and former number two at the State Department, was the frontrunner for that department. Rep. Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was the leading defence prospect.

Mubarak: Peace talks must go on

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said on Tuesday he regretted Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians but Middle East peace talks should go on anyway. "It would be the greatest mistake if we boycotted negotiations," Mr. Mubarak told reporters at a ceremony for Egyptian troops leaving for Somalia. "We regret this and hope a solution can be found," he added. The Israeli high court ruled Tuesday that the stranded people were now the responsibility of Lebanon. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Tuesday PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would visit Cairo soon to discuss how to handle the crisis resulting from last week's expulsion of the Palestinians. Mr. Arafat's political advisor Nabil Shaath, arriving in Cairo from Tunis, said Mr. Arafat would come to Cairo at the end of this week for talks with Mr. Mubarak over the crisis.

rown Prince tributes awards

BID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Regent, presented Tuesday Prince Hassan Golden Award tributes to the award programme at a special ceremony in his honour at Yarmouk University. Prince Hassan also bestowed awards to the supervisors of the programme. The prince delivered an address at the ceremony and called for the award programme to continue in the Kingdom. He thanked the supervisors of the award programme and thanked institutions which provided support for it. The prince called for starting negotiations for the international award on the award due to be in the second quarter of 1993.

ish sends farewell message to Rabin

CAVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office released the text of a farewell message sent to him by U.S. President George Bush. The letter made no mention of the expulsion of 415 Palestinians nor did it directly mention the Israeli peace talks initiated by Mr. Rabin's administration. "I have no doubt that the things we have achieved in our meeting in Jerusalem and the achievements of Israel and the United States in the last four years will be the test of time," Mr. Bush said, according to Mr. Rabin's office. Mr. Bush said at his retreat in Aulac, Maine, in August, that he was looking forward to the June elections.

Head of Israeli intelligence project

CAVIV (R) — Israel has named the former head of the U.S.-Israeli Arrow missile project as head of a new justice ministry spokesman, said on Tuesday. "Dov is being charged with taking \$175,000 from a representative of a Canadian company, attempting to fraudulently get \$500,000 from Israel Air Industries," the spokesman said. Mr. Rabin, 55, quit his post as the U.S.-funded missile programme in December 1991. Israeli press reports at the time linked his resignation to the system's failure in its first prototype tests. Defence sources said the allegations surfaced just over a year ago and led Mr. Rabin's abrupt resignation.

losion reported north London

NDON (AP) — An explosion reported in a subway station in London during the Tuesday evening rush hour, following a warning to a news agency, said a spokeswoman. London Underground said the explosion occurred at the station on the line had been evacuated. The cause of the explosion at 1657 E. "There were no casualties," said the spokeswoman. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known, but telephone warnings had preceded several recent attacks in London by the Irish Republican Army. The London Underground spokeswoman said the cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

hopian premier's Iran

OSIA (R) — Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said Tuesday for a meeting on oil cooperation between Iran and Ethiopia. Tehran Radio said the meeting could be a basis for cooperation between the two countries. "The Iranian news agency said agreement was reached on exploration of oil in Ethiopia and housing during preparatory talks conducted between Ethiopian ministers in Iran. It did not elaborate.

Evictees remain stuck in Lebanon; Israel court rules against their return

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Numbing cold and shellfire forced 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel back to a tent camp in South Lebanon Tuesday. The evictees, who spent a fifth night in the south stranded on a road to nowhere between Lebanese and Israeli forces, retreated to camp before dawn after three fell sick and a fourth was wounded by fire from Israeli-backed militiamen. The sick — Abdul Aziz Al Kojuk, 50, Akram Salameh, 17, and Mousa Omar, 26 — went to a hospital in Lebanese government territory along with Wa'el Hindiya, 40, wounded in the arm. Palestinians also said they had a narrow escape when a mortar bomb slammed into a group of them on the road in the night but failed to explode. The 415, expelled by Israel Thursday after five Israeli soldiers were killed by the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, have been spurned by Lebanon. They tried in vain Monday to march back into Israeli-held territory. They were met by warning shots, mortar bombs and tank fire from the Israeli-backed south Lebanon army. Two were wounded. Lebanese troops took over the makeshift camp Monday and ordered the Palestinians to head for Israel's frontlines. They were withdrawn Tuesday after the Palestinians returned. Palestinians reorganised tents, washed dirty clothes and checked food and water stocks after the

Beirut government on Monday barred aid agencies sending them emergency supplies. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri told U.N. relief officials to arrange for supplies to be sent from Israel, holding the Jewish state responsible for the fate of the Palestinians. In Israel, the supreme court again rejected appeals by civil rights lawyers to allow the evictees to return to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel's chief justice, Meir Shamgar, told the court that the Palestinians were on Lebanese soil, a statement that appeared to support the government contention that Israel was no longer responsible for them. The Palestinians have been stuck for five days in a freezing area between the Lebanese and Israeli armies in South Lebanon with nowhere to go. Five of them were wounded Monday when Israeli troops or their militia allies in South Lebanon opened fire at them as they tried to force their way into Israeli-held territory. Jean Rousset, deputy director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which cares for Palestinian refugees, said he appealed to Mr. Hariri Tuesday to allow aid through to the Palestinians. "But his answer was negative," Mr. Rousset said as he stood at the Lebanese army's forward-most position in Marj Al Zohour. "Hariri suggested we send supplies to the deportees through Israel as long as we operate there. We are considering this possibility," Mr. Rousset said.

Lebanese army troops at Marj Al Zohour blocked a three-vehicle UNRWA convoy from crossing into the area to deliver food and medicines to the evictees Tuesday. The two latest casualties suffered shrapnel wounds at 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) Monday. They were identified as Wael Hindiya, 35, and another identified only as Radwan. They were evacuated by local reporters to a private clinic in the town of Rashaya. Abdul Aziz Kajak, 55, collapsed suffering from a bleeding ulcer. One of the casualties, Amjad Zamel, who suffered from shrapnel wounds in the jaw early Monday, was in serious condition. Suleiman Kawasmi, suffering from a shrapnel wound in the right arm, was in fair condition. The other two were in satisfactory condition. Civil rights lawyer Imad Dakkar told reporters after the verdict that the court apparently accepted the statement by Israeli military chief of staff Ehud Barak that the evictees would be safe in Lebanon. "The chief of staff promised during the discussion that no harm will come to the deportees, and that their lives are not in danger," Mr. Dakkar said. "I hope that this promise will be upheld in practice." Another attorney, Avigdor Feldman, said he was disappointed with the verdict. "The supreme court acted

Israeli Arabs join general strike to protest expulsions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Arabs joined Palestinians in a strike Tuesday to protest last week's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon. The one-day strike was the strongest support shown by Arab citizens of Israel in the five-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule of the occupied territories, Israel Radio said. Reporters in northern Israel said the strike closed shops and schools in many Arab towns. There was less observance in mixed Jewish-Arab towns, such as Haifa, they said. Israeli Arabs, who number about 900,000, are Palestinians who remained inside Israel at the time of the creation of the state in 1948, and their descendants. In the occupied territories and Arab East Jerusalem, Palestinians closed their shops and

offices for a fifth consecutive day to protest the strike. The mainly Arab Hadash Party declared it would no longer support the government in parliament. Arab legislators have not been part of the Rabin coalition but have supported it from outside. Arab lawmakers in the coalition also supported the strike. "If there was a suspicion that two, three or four people carried out or planned a crime, perhaps deporting would be justified," said Parliament Member Nawaf Massalha of Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party. "But who can promise, with a deportation like this, who will be next?" The strike was strongly condemned by Israelis. Rafael Eitan, leader of the right-wing Tsomet Party, called

for measures to be taken against Arab officials who participated in the strike, describing them as a "fifth column," Israel Radio reported. Israel will begin allowing some Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip to enter Israel after banning them for 15 days, official military sources said. "The closure will be lifted from the north of the Gaza Strip, including the central camps, curfews will remain in parts of the strip as decided by the army. At this point schools will remain closed," a military source said. He added that in the occupied West Bank, a closure on the area of Bethlehem, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, would also be lifted. The closure on Hebron would remain but an 11-day curfew would end, he said.

Somalia forces move further into interior; U.N. stresses disarming

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — A combat-ready regiment of U.S. Marines moved to Baidoa Tuesday to establish a base from which to extend the reach of Operation Restore Hope into Somalia's famine-stricken heartland. As the Marine trucks and armoured vehicles moved out from southern Mogadishu, gun-mounted "technical" vehicles belonging to the militia of "Interim president" Ali Mahdi Mohammed were reported to have left the city's northern half for a holding area 15 kilometres to the northeast. On Monday, "technical" belonging to fighters allied with Somalia's other main warlord, Mohammed Farah Aided, pulled out of southern Mogadishu for another holding area. The warlords agreed on Dec. 11 to take their forces out of the capital. Neutralising the militias of the main factions is seen as a critical step towards restoring stability to this country ravaged by war and famine — but not the only step. Somalia also is rife with freelance bandits who have looted food aid shipments and terrorised cities. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in a report obtained

Monday reiterated his insistence that the U.S.-led multinational force in Somalia disarm the gangs and bandits. Washington says its responsibility is only to ensure the security of food aid. In a lengthy report to the U.N. Security Council late Monday, the U.N. chief forcefully spelled out his differences with the United States and rejected a request from Washington to plan immediately for U.N. troops to replace American forces when they begin to withdraw. He gave several scenarios for future U.N. peace-keeping forces but refused to offer a definite plan or time-frame for a transition, saying that if gangs and factions were not disarmed much of the relief efforts would be wasted. "It would be a tragedy if the premature departure, or remodelling of the (U.S.-led) unified task force were to plunge Somalia back into anarchy and starvation and destroy the fragile political progress of recent weeks," he said. The first of an estimated 28,000 U.S. troops landed in the Somali capital of Mogadishu on Dec. 9 to keep relief supplies from falling

into the hands of armed looters. The United States has maintained that the task force, which now includes several other nations, would not disarm combatants unless they threatened troops or relief operations. Dr. Ghali said that Washington wanted him to plan immediately for the transition to a U.N. peacekeeping force, which would closely resemble the American-led operation. He said the Security Council might have to consider such a U.N. army in the future if the United States refuses to disarm warlords as he feels Washington should. But he said he believed this approach held a "daunting prospect, namely the first peace-enforcement operation to be carried out under United Nations command." Gen. Aided arrived in Addis Ababa unexpectedly Tuesday for talks with President Meles Zenawi, government sources said. Mr. Ali Mahdi made a similar visit to Ethiopia Saturday. The two warlords are widely blamed for the blood feud that wrecked much of southern Somalia and contributed to the famine there.



Israeli policemen arrest a Palestinian protester in East Jerusalem (AFP photo)

Hamas assails Arabs, Muslims

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Tuesday assailed Arab and Islamic countries for not doing enough to assure that the 415 Palestinians expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities could return to their homes and called on the United Nations to protect the evictees. Using immediate protection for the evictees, who are stuck in an area between Israeli-controlled zone and the Lebanese Army, the Jordan-based spokesman for

Hamas, Ibrahim Ghosheh, appealed to the international community as well as his fellow Arabs to alleviate the suffering of the 415 Palestinians. "They are facing a dangerous situation," Mr. Ghosheh said. "This situation emphasises the dire need they are in and calls for immediate international protection through the United Nations," he told a press conference in Amman. He said that Hamas supported Lebanon's refusal to allow the evictees into Lebanese government-controlled territory.

"If they are let in then this would only help the Israelis in their long-term goal of transferring the Palestinians from their native soil," Mr. Ghosheh said. "Expulsion is the first step in the transfer policy," he said, referring to the policy supported by right-wing Israelis which calls for the transfer of all Palestinians from the occupied territories — a step similar to the "ethnic cleansing" taking place in Bosnia. Hamas, which has challenged

Press law article expected to be abolished

By Aymen Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The chairman of the Law Committee at the Lower House of Parliament said Tuesday he expected the House to vote in favour of his committee's recommendation to delete Article 52 of the draft Press and Publication Law. The controversial article prescribes punishments against journalists who violate Article 42 of the law, which prohibits the press from covering a range of social, economic and political issues. Deputy Salim Al Zoubi told the Jordan Times the Law Committee had recommended the deletion of the article because it defines punishments for acts dealt

with in other laws such as the Penal Code of 1960. Mr. Zoubi also expected the House to vote for returning some articles already approved by the House to the Law Committee for reconsideration when it votes on the law in its entirety. These include Article 42, which makes taboo of printing news items or articles that include insults to heads of Arab, Muslim and friendly states or heads of diplomatic missions in Amman, articles that harm the King or the Royal family or national unity and news items and articles that "shake confidence in national unity among other things." Mr. Zoubi also expected the House to refer back to the Law Committee Article 5 that forces

journalists to reveal their sources in a court of law and Article 41, which gives government the right to ban foreign publications from the country without explaining the reasons behind its actions. While Mr. Zoubi attributed the change of heart among deputies to the fact that they had more discussions of the law and considered new points of view, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi said that the media could have influenced some deputies when it printed a series of articles critical of the law. Mr. Alawi said the Brotherhood would vote for rejecting Article 42 and 52 of the draft law because the draft legislation is "law (on freedoms not punishment."

Dismissing doubts about the legality of voting down articles of the draft law after they have been endorsed by the House, Mr. Zoubi said the House has the right to refer back these articles to the Law Committee. He said the committee was considering a number of controversial articles that curb the freedom of the press in the country. "I hope the House will send those articles back to the Law Committee," he said. He said the committee was interested in producing a modern Press and Publication Law that corresponds with the democratic transformation process and helps it go forward, Mr. Zoubi said.

GCC studies Iran's role

ABU DHABI (AP) — Leaders of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) discussed behind closed doors Tuesday whether Iran could be given a role in a future defence pact. The GCC leaders also pledged to resolve outstanding border disputes which have led to clashes in the region in recent months, and the possibility of improving relations with Arab countries that they saw as having backed Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war. Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been ostracised for pro Iraq sympathies during the war which ended in February last year. The rift left the Arabs more divided than ever before. "Iran is a Gulf power to be reckoned with. There can be no effective military defence plans in its absence," said one GCC official on condition he not be further identified. "The Gulf countries are not capable of protecting their oil wealth alone," he added. The official disclosed that Oman's proposal for the creation of a combined 100,000-strong GCC defence force under joint command, had been rejected. He said no decision was expected on enlarging the size of the present 10,000-man force, code named Peninsula Shield, which Oman has said is too frail to defend the Gulf. Ever since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, the GCC states have been painfully aware of their inability to protect themselves without foreign help. Iran has stressed it must be included in any security arrangement for the pact to be viable.

TUNIS (Agencies) — A Libyan Boeing 727 crashed in Libya Tuesday, killing all 158 people aboard. A Libyan Arab Airlines official said the authorities were investigating reports that the crash was the result of a mid-air collision. The plane, on an internal flight to Tripoli from the eastern city of Benghazi, crashed near the town of Souk Al Sabt, about 60 kilometres southeast of the capital, the official said. Tripoli residents said the passenger plane apparently collided with a Libyan military plane. The crew of the warplane survived by parachuting to the ground, they said. "This is still under investigation," the airline official said of the collision reports. The official Libyan news agency JANA said there were fore-

158 killed in Libyan crash

igners aboard the airliner but gave no details. The plane had left Benghazi at 9 a.m. local (0700 GMT) and was approaching Tripoli when the accident occurred at 10.07 a.m. local (0807 GMT), the official said. There were no inhabitants in the area where the plane crashed, he added. JANA did not say when or how the crash occurred. Egyptian Television carried footage of the crash. It showed Libyan rescue officials standing near parts of the burnt hull of the plane. It also showed bodies wrapped in white plastic bags lying on the ground. JANA said authorities have opened an investigation into the cause of the crash. Senior Libyan officials immediately moved to the site of the crash.

Tribesmen urge Sanaa to improve ties with Gulf states

SANAA (AP) — Yemeni tribal leaders have demanded that their government improve relations with the oil-rich Gulf states to help remedy the economic crisis that sparked riots in major cities recently. "Yemen's relations with brotherly Gulf states must be improved in the interest of the country," said the petition presented late Monday to members of the ruling presidential council led by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baidh. Yemen, a two-year-old union of conservative North and formerly communist South, is basically a tribal country. Many from the north are closely linked to Saudi Arabia, the oil-rich neighbour that slashed \$1 billion in annual aid to Yemen and expelled nearly one million Yemeni workers because of their pro-Iraqi sympathies during the Gulf crisis.

The Saudi moves aggravated the economic problems of Yemen, which was already one of the poorest states in the Arab World. Sanaa Radio reported Tuesday that Mr. Saleh sent a message to the leaders of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) currently holding their annual summit in Abu Dhabi to urge them to restore pan-Arab solidarity. The host, United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, recently called for "forgiveness" of those who supported Iraq, and the call was welcomed by Yemeni Prime Minister Haidar Al Attas. The tribal petition also held the two ruling parties — the General People's Congress of the North and the Yemen Socialist Party of the South — responsible for the economic crisis in the country. It said: "Public funds have been mismanaged over the past period...to serve the interests of the two

ruling parties." The petition also demanded public trials for those found guilty of triggering the riots. The riots, which engulfed the southern industrial and commercial centre of Ta'iz and the belt of cities through to the capital Sanaa for nearly four days, left 15 killed, 42 injured and 661 under arrest. The government announced a series of belt-tightening measures that included the closure of 14 embassies abroad to help stem soaring inflation. The petition demanded the government come clean about the "reality of the economic situation" and acknowledge the mistakes that caused the economic crisis and urged further restrictions on internal and external state spending, including the closure of more embassies. The riots capped months of political violence that included

bomb blasts and assassinations bids on key political figures in both ruling parties. The petition also warned the government against emergency laws or imposition of "authoritarian rule" and demanded that the democratic future of the country be secured. The transitional period for the May 1990 merger was to end in November with multi-party elections, but these were postponed first to February 1993, then in April 27 because of the violence. The discord between the parties is due in part to fears by the South Yemenis that they will be squeezed out of power, since their number only 2.5 million of the country's 14 million people. Unconfirmed reports said tribes in support of Mr. Saleh came down from their mountain strongholds to position themselves around Sanaa during the food riots.

Abdul Meguid urges sanctions against Israel

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League's top executive Tuesday demanded U.N. sanctions against Israel if it refuses to take back 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the Cairo-based 21-member league, called on the U.N. Security Council to show even-handedness and punish Israel like others the world body considered offenders under Chapter VII of its charter.

Dr. Abdul Meguid spoke to reporters after meeting with visiting Lebanese Education Minister Mikhail Al Tahir.

Mr. Tahir disclosed that foreign ministers of five Arab front-line states with Israel will meet in Cairo next weekend, possibly Saturday, to discuss the expulsions.

At the same time, league and Palestinian officials said Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is expected in Cairo Wednesday or Thursday for talks with league and Egyptian government leaders on the same subject.

It is important that the Arabs take a unified stand on this," Dr. Abdul Meguid, a former Egyp-

tian foreign minister, said. "The Security Council must deal with the matter the same way it has dealt with other problems."

"If Israel persists in refusing to repatriate the deportees, the Security Council must react by imposing sanctions on it in line with Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. The council should not have two standards."

Chapter VII allows punitive measures against states for threats to or breaches of peace and acts of aggression.

More than 400 Palestinians were expelled from the West Bank and Gaza last Thursday after the fundamentalist Hamas abducted and killed an Israeli soldier. The expulsion was widely condemned the world over.

Since then the 415 Palestinians have been stranded in a makeshift camp in an area separating Lebanon and an Israeli-controlled belt bordering the Jewish state. Lebanon refused to take them and Israel would not repatriate them.

The expulsion caused the Palestinians to suspend their participation in peace talks with Israel under way since October last year. Eight rounds have been

held, with Israel negotiating separately with Syria, the Palestinians, Jordan and Lebanon. The talks, under U.S. and Russian auspices, have not produced any tangible results.

PLO and other Palestinian leaders, who concluded a two-day meeting in Tunisia's capital Tunis Monday, formed a special committee headed by Mr. Arafat to pursue developments of the issue.

Mr. Arafat's trip to Cairo this week appeared to be the first leg of an Arab tour to seek support. Mr. Tahir, the Lebanese minister, said his country would not budge from its refusal to take the Palestinians.

"If Lebanon were to let in the deportees, this would put Lebanon in collusion with Israel to implement a criminal design aimed at emptying Palestinian land from its Palestinian inhabitants," Mr. Tahir said.

The front-line Arab meeting in Cairo next weekend at foreign-minister level are Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Egypt.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak appealed to Israel to rescind the expulsions. Mr. Mubarak also called on

Israel to take definite confidence building measures to help make the current Mideast peace process a success.

Mr. Mubarak was speaking at a dinner he hosted for visiting Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

"All parties to the (Mideast) peace process should be keen to contribute to its success and should avoid taking any position that can obstruct the negotiations," Mr. Mubarak said.

"Therefore, we call on Israel to refrain from taking anything that could hinder the peace process," he said.

"To be more specific," Mr. Mubarak said, "We call on Israel to cancel the deportation decision and take definite confidence building measures between the two parties."

Foreign Minister Amr Musa made a similar appeal Thursday. He also warned that the expulsion "could lead to reactions that could obstruct the peace process."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday dismissed international criticism of his decision as hypocritical.

Expulsions blight Bethlehem Christmas

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank (R) — Bethlehem had just started dusting off its Christmas decorations for the first time in five years when news broke that Israel was expelling more than 400 Palestinians.

"We were planning some decorations in a limited way," said Mayor Elias Freij. Palestinians in Christ's birthplace had hoped to celebrate the holiday normally for the first time since their uprising against Israel erupted five years ago, Mr. Freij said.

But the expulsions have dis-

rupted plans for festivities.

"There are very dark clouds over the city. Of the 415 people expelled, 25 people were expelled from the Bethlehem area," he told Reuters. The expelled Palestinians are all Muslims but Mr. Freij refused to draw distinctions between Palestinians.

So the Christmas lights and decorations, which were expected to adorn Manger Square, have stayed in their boxes.

The only decoration was an unlit star which the Israeli army put on an evergreen tree planted

behind the highway fence surrounding the police station.

Since the outbreak of the intifada, in which Israelis have killed nearly 1,000 Palestinians, Palestinians have restricted Christmas celebrations to religious ceremonies.

But hopeful that U.S.-brokered Middle East talks which started last year would bring peace, Palestinians of all faiths have gradually resumed social and religious celebrations.

The 60,000 Christians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza

Strip had looked forward to a public celebration.

Tourists, scared off Bethlehem since the Gulf crisis in 1990, have thronged back this year. Hoteliers said all 400 rooms in the town, eight kilometres from Jerusalem, were booked for the Dec. 25 holiday.

Restaurants which have closed for the past two years were doing brisk business. Souvenir shops were full of nativity sets made of olive wood and other handicrafts in anticipation of a good season.

Iraqi vigilantes given sweeping powers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's revolutionary command council has given sweeping powers to nighttime patrols set up by the ruling Baath Party to deter crime. The army daily Al Qadisiyah said Tuesday the council had issued a resolution exempting members of the people's vigilante patrols from legal responsibility for their actions while on duty. It said the watchmen would not be questioned legally on any confrontation with thieves, anyone deemed to threaten security, or army deserters, even if the incident led to injury or death. The rising cost of living has brought a sharp rise in crime since the Gulf war. The idea for the patrols was first proposed by President Saddam Hussein at a meeting with Baath Party members on Nov. 23. The party members complained that the police were unable to combat rising crime and President Saddam proposed that the party take matters into its own hands. Party members patrol streets in two-hour shifts from midnight to six a.m. and Iraqi papers carry daily reports of successful arrests and falls in crime rates. The papers say they are paid 50 dinars a night, which compares favourably with a government official's wage of 250 to 300 dinars a month.

Turkey wants guarantees before withdrawal

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will keep troops in northern Cyprus until it is satisfied with the status of the Turkish Cypriots, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said Monday. "Let all know that Turkey will not withdraw a single soldier from Cyprus unless the rights of the Turkish Cypriots are effectively guaranteed," he told parliament during a debate on his ministry's budget for 1993. Ankara has 29,000 troops in northern Cyprus, where Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared a republic in 1983. Only Turkey recognises the breakaway state. The island has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the northern third after a coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece. A Security Council resolution last month blamed the Turkish Cypriots for obstructing U.N. talks by rejecting aspects of a "set of ideas," prepared by the United Nations. The United Nations and the Greek Cypriots say the set of ideas guarantees the rights of the Turkish Cypriots. But Mr. Cetin said the resolution was "prejudiced and unacceptable" and such an attitude has no meaning other than serving (Cypriot President George) Vassiliou's election propaganda. Vassiliou announced his candidacy only after the resolution was passed. Mr. Vassiliou is to run for a second presidential term in elections due in February. "The resolution will only deepen the lack of confidence between the (Turkish and Greek Cypriot) sides," Mr. Cetin added.

Lockerbie victims' relatives present petition

LONDON (AP) — A group seeking an independent inquiry into the deaths of their relatives to the Pan-Am bombing four years ago said they were kept waiting nearly half an hour outside the prime

minister's office Monday. The explosion aboard the New York-bound flight on Dec. 21, 1988 killed 270 people in the plane. Lockerbie, Scotland. Dr. Jim Swire, spokesman for U.K. Foreign Office, said the six representatives of the group in Flight 103, said the six representatives of the group in Flight 103, said they were kept waiting at the gate at the end of Do Street for 25 minutes until Prime Minister John Major's car arrived. "We did not have an appointment to meet the minister, only to deliver the petition, but I do feel that we were unable to see him," said Mr. Swire, whose daughter, Fiona, was among the victims. "I wonder if he realises what the magnitude of that disaster was, and the strength of our feelings that we do not know what happened." A spokesman for Mr. Major's office said the petition would be brought to Mr. Major's attention. Experts established that the plane was brought down by explosives in a radio-cassette player and stowed among the baggage. Britain and the United States are seeking the extradition of two Libyans allegedly involved in the attack.

Pope adds Sudan stop to African trip

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has added a stop to an African trip in February to show his solidarity with Roman Catholics in the predominantly Muslim country. Vatican announced Tuesday Pope John Paul will celebrate a three-day trip, his 57th foreign pilgrimage. The Vatican has long been a vocal critic of the Sudanese military government of General Nimeiri, charging the situation has worsened since the proclamation of Islamic law in January 1991. Sudan has been torn by a nine-year civil war between the Muslim north and the Christian south. Economic and political issues, as well as religious differences, are behind the war. The Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said the Pope wants to "show the joy" with Catholics over the recent beatification of a Sudanese and to "give comfort" to local clerics.

Council of Europe censures Turkey

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture Monday accused the Turkish police of widespread torture and urged Ankara to put a stop to it. Several leading human rights groups, including Amnesty International, have in recent months accused Turkish security forces of torture and political killings, saying Turkey has heeded calls to improve its human rights record. In a 10-page report, the committee concluded "Torture and other severe ill-treatment of persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to ordinary criminals and persons held under anti-terrorism laws." The 27-nation council was set up in 1948 to promote democracy and protect individual liberties.

Iran paper warns Gulf

NICOSIA (R) — The Tehran Times said Gulf Arab leaders meeting in a summit in Abu Dhabi would be making a mistake if they fanned the flames of a territorial war with Iran.

"The greatest mistake on the part of all 'Persian' Gulf littoral states would be to try to intensify differences and disputes among the countries of the 'Persian' Gulf region," the paper, considered close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said.

Leaders of the six country Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met in Abu Dhabi Monday after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's shuttle diplomacy patched up a border dispute between Saudi Arabia and fellow GCC-member Qatar.

GCC leaders are worried about Iran's regional ambitions, including what they see as its annexation of three Gulf islands it has shared for years with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The 11-year-old GCC also included Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman.

"The critical state that had been brought about between Iran and the UAE in the past few months has not been entirely settled," said the English-language Tehran Times, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency.

"In particular, the equivocal stances adopted by the UAE in its relation with Iran has created new problems for the region."

Iran said earlier this year it had tightened control on Abu Musa Island, located in the Strait of Hormuz near shipping routes for more than half of the world's oil imports, to ward off security threats.

Tehran allowed some Arab teachers and service workers to return to the UAE side of the island last month, but the measure failed to satisfy the UAE, which also demands that Iranian troops leave two nearby islands.

Ankara gets green light to keep Western forces

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's National Security Council has urged the government to give a six-month extension on the mandate for Western warplanes to remain in Turkey to protect Iraqi Kurds.

The 80-plane force which includes 40 warplanes from the United States, Britain and France has been daily patrolling north of the 36th Parallel, where Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds have established a form of autonomy.

Coalition powers and Iraqi Kurds had asked Turkey to extend the mandate of the force that expires at the end of the year.

In a meeting chaired by President Turgut Ozal, the National Security Council said: "The conditions in northern Iraq have not yet stabilised enough to permit giving up the deterrence provided by this practice."

The advisory body which groups key state, government and military officials decided that continuous deployment of the force would conform to Turkey's national interests and advised the government to allow the force to stay.

The governments traditionally heed the advice of the council. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel is expected to refer the advice to the decision of the 450-member parliament dominated by his centrist coalition government.

The legislature is expected to give its approval by the end of the week. The recommendation to keep the force at Incirlik air base in southern Turkey came in the wake of heightened tensions in northern Iraq because of bombing attacks on Turkish trucks hauling U.N. relief supplies to the Kurdish area.

Iraqi Kurds and the U.S. officials have blamed Baghdad for the bombings. Denying any responsibility,

Baghdad has charged the bombings were a "Western provocation."

Turkish Foreign Minister Metin Cetingil ruled out any action by the West force without an explicit call from the U.N. Security Council.

On Monday, Iraq's defence minister, Ali Hassan al-Majid, said the Iraqi government would not allow the U.N. Security Council to "take any action against Iraq without an explicit call from the U.N. Security Council."

The United Nations has urged Iraq to allow the U.N. Security Council to "take any action against Iraq without an explicit call from the U.N. Security Council."

Mr. Sills noted that and accord between Baghdad and United Nations, the Iraqi government agreed to "take all measures to facilitate the rapid passage and delivery of relief supplies to the Kurds."

Baghdad has agreed to cooperate with the new initiative has been invited to join inspections, Mr. Eliasson said.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Friday announced a porry halt to the winter programme for the Iraqi after several Turkish trucks carrying relief supplies were seized by bombs believed planted by Iraqis.

"This is a struggle against because of the onset of winter," Mr. Eliasson said. "We have got food in as soon as possible... we must avoid a difficult situation in the winter in the few days. We hope to have (new guard arrangements) in the next few days."



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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 1111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Ateliers du Rove
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Spotlight
21:30 James Randy
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Yes Virginia, there is Santa Claus"

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fajr
06:27 Sunrise
11:34 Dhuhr
14:13 'Asr
16:41 Maghrib
18:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637450

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cold, cloudy and rainy and winds will be northwesterly moderate.

Min./Max. temp. 03 / 5
Aqaba 01 / 10
Deserts 01 / 10
Jordan Valley 7 / 14

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 17 Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 54 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakir Bilbas 663412
Dr. Farouk Moor 786680
Dr. Yabara Abdul Rahim 736072
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tajim 620115
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Azana pharmacy 637025
Nairouh pharmacy 633672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuciani pharmacy 637660
Nairouh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Abdulhadi Abu Hashma 276764
Al Oudh pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mayson Hadeed 985730
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 75121
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63031
Hotel Complaints 608080
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queens Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Al Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 6424142
Jahel Amman Maternity 642662
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848045
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Abdi, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mutajir 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7511176
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
IBRAHIM:
Al Hana Modern Hospital (09)986732
IBRAHIM:
Pawson Bama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ban Al Nafsa Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:00 Jeddah (RJ)
07:00 Aden (RJ)
07:25 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
07:25 Samaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)

16:35 London (RJ)
16:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:55 Istanbul (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:30 Rome (RJ)
23:05 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:05 Dubai (AZ)
06:05 Karachi (PI)
07:35 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Istanbul (SU)
10:30 Samaa (IY)
12:00 Damascus (PI)
18:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:30 Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
19:50 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:00 Madrid (RJ)
10:30 Rome (RJ)
10:35 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:10 Oran (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
19:30 Colombo (RJ)
19:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:15 New Delhi (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Samaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Rome (PI)
06:45 Damascus (PI)
06:15 Beirut (MS)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Samaa (IY)
12:00 Jeddah (RJ)
13:00 Karachi (PI)

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Upper/lower price in J.O.D.
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Garlic 200
Grapefruit 200
Lemon 200
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Mango (small) 200
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Onion (green) 200
Orange 200
Pepper (hot) 200
Pepper (sweet) 200
Potato 200
Tomato 200
Spinach 200
Mint 200
Green Olive 200

Home News

Brotherhood deputy withdraws resignation

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AN — Islamist member of the House of Parliament Khalafat has reversed his resignation from the House. Khalafat, who had submitted his resignation letter to the House on Tuesday, said he had decided to continue his work in the House. Khalafat, who resigned in protest of the House's decision to freeze the membership of the Muslim Brotherhood, said he had decided to continue his work in the House. Khalafat, who resigned in protest of the House's decision to freeze the membership of the Muslim Brotherhood, said he had decided to continue his work in the House.

orientation," said his decision to finish his term in the 11th Parliament was also aimed at utilising the House's time in discussing more important issues on its agenda. The deputy's membership in the Brotherhood movement was frozen after he visited Kuwait and expressed views that conflicted with the movement's policy on the Gulf crisis. The Brotherhood supported Iraq during the Gulf war while Mr. Khalafat took the side of the Gulf states. "It is natural that Mr. Khalafat does not continue his work in the movement because he expressed views," wrote articles and travelled (Kuwait) in violation of the Brotherhood's directions," Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawai told the Jordan Times Tuesday. The Brotherhood will discuss the permanent status of Mr. Khalafat in February, six months after the decision to freeze his membership was taken. Mr. Khalafat however expects the bloc to terminate his membership because "he is not going to change his political views."

Nazzal assails Arabs and Muslims

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Nazzal told reporters that his group would pressure the PLO to have the Palestinian negotiating team pull out of the talks with Israel for good. "We want them to take a clear-cut decision and announce their withdrawal... (from the talks)," he said. During a meeting expected to begin Thursday between four top leaders of Hamas and the PLO leadership in Tunis, Hamas group will encourage the PLO "to close the chapter of negotiations with the enemy, unite ranks against the Zionists and escalate the uprising in the territories," he said. A senior member of the PLO group Fatah said Tuesday that he did not believe the Palestinians would withdraw from the talks immediately. "They will try to push the Israelis towards negotiating directly with the PLO and change Israel's stand vis-a-vis withdrawal from the Palestinian territories," said the official on condition of anonymity. The talks are not expected to resume until March after U.S. president-elect Bill Clinton has taken over in the White House on Jan. 20. The PLO is expected to make overtures to Hamas and try to bring them into the Palestinian fold by offering them seats on the Palestine National Council. Hamas may not agree to either the number of seats, nor will it agree to collaboration with the PLO unless it receives assurances that the 415 evictees will be allowed to return and that Israel changes its position over the issue of withdrawal.

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Deportees remain stranded

(Continued from page 1)

conditions of uncertainty," Ensur said. "We don't know what is going on there, a level of danger is, the constantly in flux. It (the case) is the side that says things will happen to them, hope they are right." Ensur said there were no for concern about the health or safety of the deportees as long as they do nothing unreasonable," Gen. Ensur said. However, he added: "I think if they get up again and try to move... if they get near the transit point, warning shots will be fired again."

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Lower House to debate amended RJ law

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament will Wednesday resume discussion of the amended law on Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines after the draft legislation was vetoed by His Majesty King Hussein. The King sent back the law to the House because it gives the post of chairman of the airline's board to the minister of transport. In a letter to the prime minister, chief of the Royal Court said the King vetoed the draft law because appointing a minister as chairman of the corporation's board will reflect negatively on the airline's performance. The letter said government portfolios are repeatedly changed and "running the corporation requires specialisation" and full time commitment. The letter said the King wants the chairman of RJ board and its president should be appointed by a Royal Decree. In its session Wednesday, the House will also discuss a request by Deputy Fouad Khalafat to

freeze his resignation letter (see separate story) a draft law on amending the municipalities law of 1962, and ministers answers to deputies' questions on domestic issues. The House will also discuss a letter from Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on the trial of deputies Leith Shbeilai and Yacoub Qarrash. The two deputies were pardoned under a General Amnesty by King Hussein in November after a State Security Court found them guilty of plotting sedition and sentenced them to 20 years of hard labour. In his letter which he sent to the House in accordance with Article 86 of the Constitution, Sharif Zeid only gave a short description of how the case progressed from the day the two deputies were arrested until they were released under the General Amnesty. The House is also expected to vote on the draft Press and Publication Law among high expectations that it will vote down some articles that are believed to curb the freedom of the press in the country.

Complaints to go through House

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The administrative committee at the Lower House of Parliament has decided to assume the responsibility of raising citizen's complaints against government agencies at the House. After a meeting chaired by its President Fouad Khalafat Tuesday, the committee said it has the right to bring to the House's attention citizen's complaints against ministries and other government agencies. The committee said this right is granted to it by Article 36 item 3 of the House's internal regulations, which entrusts the committee with examining complaints sent to the House and discussing "any issue pertaining to general administration."

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Ensur calls for closer German-Jordanian trade links

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensur Tuesday said that Jordan has the potential to be one of the leading industrial countries in the region and an important attraction for world investors. Dr. Ensur was speaking during a reception held by the Jordanian Exporters Association to honour Sharif Abu Jaber, member of the executive office of the Arab German Chamber of Commerce, which was held Monday. Dr. Ensur said Jordan has, for the first time, attracted large

foreign investments, as American, Indian and Japanese companies have announced their plans to set up industrial companies in Jordan, using advanced technology. He voiced his ministry's readiness to provide all the necessary facilities to a group of German businessmen who are due in Amman in the Spring. Dr. Abu Jaber said the Arab-German Chamber of Commerce is ready to act as a link between Jordan and Germany in transfer of technology and setting up joint ventures.

Local administration to change in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment's Secretary General Asem Ghosheh Monday chaired a meeting of a committee charged with organising relations between Aqaba municipality and Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA). The committee recommended that a permanent coordination committee from ARA and the

municipality be formed to study Aqaba town's plan and its annual budget and that ARA should defuse the unfinished projects, and fix a date for completing them.

The right to education for all — a cherished goal for Jordan

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Realising the right need to acknowledge the root causes of the educational system's problems and to explore ways to handle it, concerned parties in Jordan, along with international organisations, joined hands for the adoption of a national educational policy that gives the right to education to all. Their basic source of inspiration were the principles adopted in the Jomtien Conference, held in Thailand in 1990, which confirmed that the right of education for men and women all over the world must be guaranteed. This does not prevent women in Jordan from encountering significant difficulties, explicitly demonstrated in the studies carried out by the Ministry of Education along with UNESCO and experts in the educational field at present holding discussions at the four-day roundtable in Amman. The studies show that the way of life in many parts in Jordan and particularly in rural areas is still dominated by traditions and conventions; people in these areas still attribute higher importance to male education; they regard women as second class citizens whose role is confined to household duties and rearing children. This contributes to denying women their right to pursue high school education. In rural areas where schools are numbered,

women are obliged to stay at home since their parents do not approve of the idea of sending them to the city out of fear they will mingle with their male counterparts. One of the papers presented at the roundtable also drew attention to the psychological factors that hinder women from getting educated. First, the paper said, is the way women look at themselves and their acceptance to be treated as second class citizens combined with lack of awareness of their abilities; women also do not have a clear vision of the special benefits of education. In addition, early marriages and lack of desire among women to continue their studies, having prior conceptions that they are destined, sooner or later, to stay at home and take care of the children, accompanied by the economic situation of the family, discourage women from pursuing their studies. Older women who join the programmes specialised for the eradication of illiteracy also have their share of grievances; above all, it is the heavy responsibilities the women shoulder in taking care of their household which leaves little time to pay attention to studies. Adding to this, there is the constant fear of failure and shame that accompany older women when going to class. In addition to the fact that teachers are not adequately qualified and some teaching centres are far from their homes.

Children's educational conditions in Jordan entail even further complications. At present, only 30 per cent of children in Jordan join kindergartens. The working papers on early childhood attribute this low number of children to the fact that these institutions are distributed in the Kingdom in a haphazard manner and owned by private sector investors; they also attribute it to the lack of awareness, among parents, of the importance of this stage to their children's education, pointing out that "special care must be given to children since there is no hope in a better future if children of today are deprived and miserable." According to the studies, the media should play a major role in raising awareness of the importance of education among the parents. Special programmes must be addressed to women in particular since they are the ones who shoulder the responsibility of rearing children and the most affected by illiteracy. Statistics for the year 1990 point out that 28 per cent of women above the age of 15 are illiterate, compared to 9 per cent of men. A special programme for the eradication of illiteracy, which was put to work in Jordan in the year 1972, is facing major difficulties at present. The paper points out that the curriculum is outdated and lacks touch with real-

ity. It may be due, said the paper, to the fact that only a small section at the Ministry of Education exists for this purpose, as the ministry lacks financial, administrative and legislative support needed to upgrade its performance. Lack of attention to education and its importance in the progress of the country is also reflected in the bad conditions and the scarcity of centres specialised for disabled persons in Jordan. In 1990, these centres stood at about 60. The study points that these institutions do not meet the need of the rising number of disabled persons and some are not fully equipped, while teachers are not trained to cope with certain difficulties they encounter in this category. Experts attending the roundtable on education for all argue that if a change in the educational system is to occur, special attention must be given to raising awareness among the public of the significant changes witnessed in the world that must be accompanied by changes in the educational policy. These changes must, according to a working paper on the promotion of culture, be based above all on the special traits that distinguish the Jordanian society: Islam, the principles of the Arab Revolution, respect of traditions and conventions to preserve the identity and national unity and the combination between the traditional heritage and the contemporary one.

Lawyers protest at deportation

AMMAN (Petra) — In another show of support for the Palestinian deportees more than 300 Jordanian lawyers held a sit-in at the Palace of Justice in Amman Tuesday. A statement signed by the lawyers urged world governments and international organisations to provide protection to the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands and stop the continued crimes of expulsion and ensure the repatriation of the expelled Palestinians. The statement urged Islamic and pan-Arab organisations and Arab governments to unite their ranks and transcend their differences in order to undertake a collective measure to abort Israel's plots and ensure the return of Arab rights. The statement condemned the Israeli expulsion order as a flagrant violation of international law and the Geneva conventions on civil rights which provide for the protection of civilians during wars and foreign occupation. The strikers later handed in a copy of their statement to the United Nations office in Amman and urged the world organisation to implement its resolution concerning the repatriation of the Palestinian deportees.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Islamic organisations in Jordan Tuesday handed the British charge d'affaires in Amman a memorandum addressed to British Prime Minister John Major over the Palestinian deportees plight. The memorandum urged the British government to find a way to end the ordeal of the 400 Palestinian deportees expelled by the Israeli authorities to Lebanon. In the same memorandum, the Islamic organisations urged the British government to find a means to halt the atrocities to which the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are subjected to at the hands of the Serbs. The memorandum, which condemned Serbian acts of starvation, mass expulsion of citizens and demolition of homes, urged the British government to work in concert with the United States and other European countries to save the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina from extermination and to ensure their safe return to their homeland.

Tubeishat addresses environmental seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Dr. Abdul Razak Tubeishat told a seminar in Amman Tuesday that pollution has affected all elements of the environment in the Kingdom, with the coastal regions in the Aqaba area suffering most conspicuously. The effects of various industrial activities, the dumping of waste, import and export operations at the Aqaba port all contribute to pollution the minister said at the opening of a seminar held to discuss the application of the newly enacted Jordanian law on the environment. The pollution in Aqaba has affected the coral reefs and is taking its toll on the wildlife as well as marine life in the southern areas of Jordan, the minister said. Dr. Tubeishat urged government and non-governmental organisations to join in efforts spearheaded by the ministry to safeguard the environment and help sustain environmental balance. Dr. Tubeishat last October announced what he called "a very civilised environment law" that will treat existing pollution and introduce new protection measures. The law proposed the creation of an independent environmental department which would consolidate the work of various government agencies and create a special fund to finance environmental protection schemes in Jordan. He said that the law was the fruit of three years of work by 180 Jordanian scientists representing the public as well as the private sectors in Jordan. The law is based on a Jordanian environmental strategy unveiled in May this year at a ceremony attended by their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

HAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

Picture exhibition by Mona Al Al-Balki Art Gallery. Exhibition of ceramics by Jordanian artist model Taha at Alfa Art. Exhibition of paintings by Hassan Al Saeed at the Gallery of Fine Arts. Exhibition of paintings and sculpture by three artists from Amman: Al Hassan, Kamel Al-Husseini and Laila Shawan at Hassan Shoman Gallery (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.). Exhibition of arts by Iraqi artist Mohammed Hussein at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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Economic Forum

Jordan's best and worst achievements

The so-called "budget speech" delivered by Finance Minister Mr. Basel Jaraneh in the Lower House when he presented the 1993 draft budget shed ample light on the performance of the Jordanian economy in 1992 and constituted a very well-composed and authentic document. The statistical tables appended to the speech are really very valuable because their coverage of key statistics goes up to the end of 1992. We do hope that this appendix will be established as a tradition.

To our mind, the best economic achievement in 1992 was cutting the inflation rate down to 4 per cent. While the much-publicised rise in domestic revenues of the government was achieved through tax hikes and thereby came at the expense of a populace already besieged by stagnant real incomes, unemployment and high costs of living, the harnessing of inflation is in everybody's interest: everybody gained and nobody stood to lose anything. An economic policy which can combat inflation is normally one which understands the economy and how it works. One really hopes that the drop in inflation in 1992 is not a coincidence and that it will be transformed into a trend. If that happens, the most catastrophic residue of the devaluation of the Jordan dinar will be

siphoned away.

The worst economic achievement was the 20 per cent jump in imports of goods, which pushed up the trade deficit by 24 per cent to 1,703 million dollars, despite a 15 per cent increase in exports. The 1992 rise in imports is to be compared to a drop of 3 per cent in 1991. To understand the message of this sad import performance, certain basic facts have to be recalled.

The current economic adjustment programme was launched to tackle the problem of Jordan's external debt. The dinar had been devalued, capital fled away, potential capital inflows were pre-empted and Jordan reached a point when it had not a single dollar to pay its maturing external obligations. It is at that time that the IMF had been invited and the programme was devised.

It follows that the ultimate goal of the programme is to enable Jordan to repay its external debt. It is this which ultimately decides whether the programme is a success or otherwise. For the time being, Jordan is acquiring more, not less, foreign loans on a net basis. For example, under the 1993 budget, the central government will repay JD263 million worth of foreign loans but will borrow JD289 million of them. The effective repayment of

our external debt will start in earnest only about ten years now when the Jordanian economy is assumed to be in a programme, to generate an external payment surplus of one to two billion dollars annually on a regular basis.

Foreign exchange necessary to meet this requirement generated mainly by both a greatly boosted export programme and a constrained growth rate of imports. The growth rate of imports is the parameter most linked to the ability to repay its debt in the future and is thus decisive to the success of any schemes for economic reform.

The growth rate of imports in 1992 is alarmingly high because it has so much to do with the core of the adjustment, it is the worst economic achievement. The problem is that Jordan is committed under the programme to liberalise its foreign trade more and more and thus has of controlling the growth rate of its imports, especially in the medium term. Given that growth pattern and this trend, imports threaten to be the deep black hole that other good and bright economic achievements.

Choice for education

ILLITERACY IN the Arab World is projected to reach the shocking number of 60 million people by the turn of this century. This much was disclosed during the four-day Conference on Education being held in Amman under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and UNESCO. An equally disturbing information was the revelation that the rate of illiteracy among women in Jordan is 28 per cent, compared to 9 per cent for men.

This is not encouraging news, given the fact that a nation's degree of development cannot be measured in isolation from cultural dimensions. It would seem logical to conclude therefore that with such high illiteracy rate, the Arab Nation has a way to go before it can hope to attain a certain level of progress in self-education for our people.

On the strictly local Jordanian scene, the overall literacy rate may not be so bad, but as long as women continue to be neglected and discriminated against, the balanced development that the country needs would remain weak at best or absent altogether. The margin of difference between male and female literacy levels in Jordan is obviously unacceptable and suggests that the government and people have yet to come to grips with the issue of equality between the sexes.

Rectification of this and other existing deficiencies in our educational system in the Kingdom calls for affirmative action by the central government. Translated into real terms, the country needs men and women in the Ministry of Education who are: (A) aware of the problem and (B) ready, willing and able to do something about it. Such ambitious objective as raising illiteracy and improving education for all may very well require measures to revolutionise the system of education from top to bottom.

As things stand, everybody — almost — agrees that Jordanian methods and tools of education are archaic and they fit the new era of democracy and openness. Without the foundation of proper and appropriate education, there is no way that Jordanians can catch up with other, more developed nations of the world.

Our political leaders have repeatedly voiced their concern about the pressing need for a sophisticated educational base that could serve the requirements of the country in the future. Yet, it seems that no one is listening or — worst still — no one wants to listen. Even the private school system in the country has not been able to escape the tyranny of the bureaucracy. Whenever the private sector in education sought to introduce new methods of education or use modern scientific and literacy text books, they were immediately blocked from doing so by die-hard bureaucrats still turning the educational show in the Kingdom. If only the central government could be convinced to pick up the repeated signals from the top, education would be well-served for years to come. Then and only then can there be hope that progress not only in education but in all levels will be realised.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PALESTINIAN deportees continue their steadfastness and their firm stand in the face of the Israeli forces' bullets and the repeated attacks by the so-called South Lebanon Army, said Al Naba daily Tuesday. The world community is doing nothing to help the Palestinians, as people around the world follow the plight of the deportees like a movie and watch their governments issuing empty statements by hypocrite statesmen in support of the Arabs, said the daily. The expulsion of the 400 Palestinians from their homeland could mark the end of an era and the beginning of another, added the daily. It said that the year-long negotiations between the Arab parties and the Israelis resulted in nothing and such outcome could prompt the Arabs to reconsider their position. The paper said that the recent events in occupied Palestine revealed the true face of Zionism and proved to the world the American lies and double standards concerning the protection of human rights, security and justice. The hypocrisy of the West and the lies of the U.S. administrations, together with continued atrocities being committed against the Palestinians since 1948, said the paper, could prompt the Arab countries to take another view concerning the futile negotiations. We have always supported the idea of negotiations instead of confrontation, but it seems that such a strategy does not apply to our region as we continue to face a racist enemy, full of hatred towards the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, said the daily. It said that the Palestinians have no alternative but to take up arms against this barbaric enemy and pursue their heroic stand in the face of oppression.

Yitzhak Rabin is trying to escape responsibility from his decision to deport the 400 Palestinians from their homeland by trying to accuse them of being responsible for Israel's ills, said Al Dustour daily. The paper said that Rabin has tried at one time to blame Lebanon for the tragic situation at the border, and the plight of the expelled Palestinian now exposed to cold and severe weather conditions. But Lebanon is determined never to allow the Palestinians to enter its territory, the paper noted, it said Lebanon has all the right to prevent anyone from entering its territory and this position stems from Lebanon's belief that the Palestinians ought to be allowed to return home and not to become refugees. Israeli forces firing on the deportees in the no man's land is yet another desperate attempt on the part of the Rabin government to force the Palestinians to shift their problem to Lebanon and force the Lebanese government to accept them, said the paper.

New hope and new gore in a changed world

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New year, new life, new hope. But not 1992. For much of the world, it was a year for dying.

They died silently, by the thousands, in the dust of starving Somalia. Invisibly, in midnight massacres, in Bosnia's "cleansed" towns. Uselessly in the blood feuds of a crumbled Soviet Union. Namelessly, slipping beneath the waves, in the sea off Haiti. Senselessly in chaotic Liberia.

The world swung out of the cold war's shadow in 1992 and into a promising dawn of new nations. Warriors made peace, the voiceless at last voted, foes joined as friends. The new day worked minor wonders in unlikely places: Albanians got their first beauty parlor. The Chinese raced horses again after four decades. In gray old Romania, a prancing Michael Jackson thrilled 'em.

But next door, or down the road, or around the world in lands brought home through the window of television, neighbours were slaughtering each other for reasons rooted in dimly recalled history. Old "friends" were proving unreal, old wounds unhealed.

"What has become of the rising hope shared by so many?" grieved Nobel peace prize winner Elie Wiesel.

From a century of memories, Sulejman Galicic offered an answer. "Without harmony, there is no peace," the 99-year-old Bosnian Muslim told AP reporter George Jahn in bloody Sarajevo, besieged by the hated Serbs. "And there never will be either in Bosnia."

No harmony, no peace. No hope?

Through a year of indecision, some did hope that the United States, the surviving superpower, would show the way to the new world order. But America seemed unready, distracted by its own democratic exercise.

The inertia proved costly. In Somalia, where civil conflict and drought conspired to starve a nation, aid workers warned in late 1991 of a human catastrophe. It arrived on schedule. By late 1992, at least 350,000 had died in that sorrowful east African land.

Finally, in late November, the U.N. Security Council took President Bush's offer to land thousands of U.S. troops in Somalia to restore order and deliver food. Slowly, tentatively, the community of nations was working together. But the map overflowed with jobs even tougher than Somalia.

In Cambodia, a U.N. deal ending 13 years of civil war was unraveling as the diehard communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas balked.

In Liberia, a dormant civil war erupted anew, the blood flowed, and a ragtag rebel army pinned down a multinational African peacekeeping force.

In Angola, the results of U.N. sponsored elections disappointed the guerrilla leader who lost: His insurgents took up arms again, encores of a 16-year-old African war.

Militant separatists in Sri Lanka and India waged terror wars against those who look different, speak differently, and hold power. Such ethnic crusades unfolded in kaleidoscopic confusion in the former Soviet Union, where Armenians battled Azerbaijanis, Georgians fought South Ossetians and Abkhazians, north Ossetians fought Ingush, Moldovans stared down Russians, and Tajik clan took on Tajik clan. In

Germany, it was neo Nazis who attacked foreigners.

Still, 1992's toughest challenge lay in the blood-soaked valleys of a disintegrated Yugoslavia.

In the latest act of a Balkan tragedy, the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a patchwork of peoples, broke away from Yugoslavia. Ferocious ethnic warfare followed.

The well-armed Serbian minority drove Bosnia's majority Muslims from countless towns, killing thousands. "Ethnic cleansing," they called it. They were not alone: loyalist Muslims and Croats could also be brutal.

The Muslim president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in battered Sarajevo, appealed for American help. "Let them bomb those who are bombing us," he pleaded. He still waits.

For some around the world, the new year did mean new hope.

Peace — or something close to it — settled over the civil wars in El Salvador, Mozambique and Afghanistan, allowed their war sick people to at last ponder a future. The Arabs and Israelis talked on and on about peace — no breakthroughs, but talk itself remained astonishing. In South Africa, whites and the black majority inched painfully towards multiracial democracy.

Country by country in 1992, as never before, the people spoke in the language of the ballot box. From Albania to the Congo, to the coconut islands of the Seychelles, they voted their choices.

But democracy's progress was not always smooth. In Peru, for example, the president shut down the congress and courts, complaining of corruption. Polls said his people agreed with him.

Israel undercutting PLO ability to deliver peace

By Jack Redden

REUTERS
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel's expulsion of hundreds of Arabs could undercut Palestinian negotiators so severely they would be unable to deliver peace in the occupied territories, even if talks continued.

Israel alone portrayed last Thursday's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians accused of links to militant Islamic groups as a way to further peace talks.

It drew worldwide condemnation and by Saturday had triggered protests in the occupied territories in which Israeli soldiers had shot dead seven Arabs.

"It is putting us all in a difficult situation," Faisal Al Hussein, a key figure in Palestinian 14-month-old peace negotiations with Israel, using carefully chosen words while meeting U.S. President George Bush after the expulsions.

Palestinian negotiators make no secret of their ties to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), competing with Islamic groups such as Hamas for influence among the two million Palestinians under Israeli rule.

But, with estimates that up to 40 per cent of Palestinians backed the Islamic resistance movement Hamas before the Israeli crackdown, the PLO cannot afford to ignore the sense of outrage in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"Expulsion is a crime against the whole people," said Odeh Rantisi. As head of the Anglican community in the West Bank town of Ramallah, he cannot be accused of ties to Hamas.

The PLO had endorsed the peace talks on Israeli terms and pressed ahead despite complaints about the lack of progress.

Groups that rejected the peace talks, including factions of the

PLO and Islamic groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, are certain to portray Israel's iron-fisted methods as vindication of their scepticism.

The deported Palestinians, driven out in disregard of international law, are settling into Red Cross tents in a snowy no-man's-land between Lebanese and Israeli lines — a symbol of the indefinite future for Arabs who reject peace talks.

While the Israeli government dismisses fears the expulsions will undermine the peace talks, Israeli right wingers who always opposed negotiations quickly endorsed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's action.

They had feared peace talks would lead to an Israeli withdrawal from Arab land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

The right-wing Jerusalem Post newspaper landed the expulsions and advised Rabin not to make any concessions to strengthen the PLO's popularity over Hamas. "They are not doing Israel a favour by attending the talks."

The Israeli left, however, justified the abrupt reversal of its long-standing opposition to expulsions as a way to promote the peace talks by strengthening the PLO.

"There is no chance for peace without combating Hamas, but at the same time we must extend our hand to the PLO leadership," said Yossi Sarid, part of the Meretz faction in Rabin's ruling coalition and who made his reputation campaigning for human rights.

The condemnation of Hamas and praise of "moderate" PLO people at the peace talks contrasts with past Israeli policy. Hamas was allowed to grow because

Israeli authorities saw it as a group as a way to wean the main adversary, the PLO, from its militant stance.

Palestinians, aware of the sudden interest in the PLO, merely intended to keep the PLO in the limelight. Even without that, could have that effect between the PLO and the Israeli government?

Gaza earlier this year, the groups issued a joint declaration on Sunday, calling for a meeting in the PLO on the edge of the Gaza Strip.

Any agreement reached in Washington — most limited self-governance — is certain to be permanent solution in the future — is certain to be permanent solution in the future — is certain to be permanent solution in the future.

Israel is positioned in the terms of a settlement in its futile attempt to treaty on Lebanon by invading in 1982. alone does not effect.

The PLO, now three years old, has been reverting itself under international to attend what talks probably in February.

But negotiating again drop of the Palestinian demonstrated by the expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians can only make deal that much harder.

And without broad support by Palestinians, peace to return to the state-occupied territories is what the PLO represents.

LETTERS

Thank you, Jordan

To the Editor:

I wish to share a significant happening with your readers. I arrived in Amman on a flight from Cairo. I was met by a friend and later arrived at Jerusalem Hotel. The hotel clerk said there was a call for me from a Mr. of the Immigration Office at the airport. He reported I passport was in his possession. I was certain it was in a pack.

I returned to the airport and retrieved my passport by Fayez who said someone found it out in the parking lot. I thank this good Jordanian citizen but he had not left his. Thus I wish to use this opportunity to thank not a gentleman who found my passport but all those who made in Amman so enjoyable. During my 17 years with the Inter Al Office at the University of Central Oklahoma I have seen many students from Jordan. Now I understand we have always been an outstanding group.

Having had such a positive experience in Jordan only makes me appreciate them more.

Dr. Ronald L. Paddock,
Director: International Office
University of Central Oklahoma,
U.S.

Long lost friend

To the Editor:

I am employed by Wimpey International as the chief engineer for the Expansion Project for the Arab Potash Company near have been here for nearly two months of a contract that is finish in February 1994.

When I was at London University, Queen Mary College, a good Jordanian friend whose name was Gaby Khoury. For quite some time I have lost touch with him and would like to contact him, if he is still living in Jordan.

We were two of 13 students reading nuclear engineering between 1967 and 1970.

Could you publish this letter so that if he or his family may get back in touch?

Tony Ferdinand,
Arab Potash Company,
Saudi.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions for readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name, preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only on request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of manuscripts.

Arab scholar enriches Amman's literary landscape

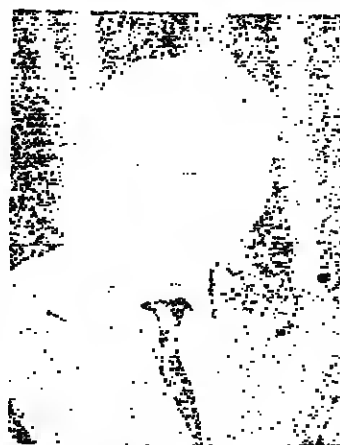
By Sana Abu Hwajj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Twenty years ago Hassan Said Karmi joined the Arabic Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Now he is a famous, well-established literary figure and language scholar.

Born in the West Bank village of Toul Karim in 1908, Mr. Karmi left Palestine at the end of the British Mandate for a career in broadcasting during which he has been a programme on Arabic radio. He is also the author of English-Arabic and Arabic-English dictionaries.

In 1989, the host of the famous programme "Saying on a saying" decided to settle in Amman with his wife who passed away two years later. Now Mr. Karmi lives on his own in his apartment in western Amman where he had the following to say about his life and career to the Jordan Times.

Q: How do you think the Arabic Service of the BBC has contributed to the enrichment of Ara-



Hassan Karmi

bic literature?

A: The Arabic Service of the BBC is essentially for giving the Arab audience the British point of view in politics, science and literature. But because the broadcast is directed to an Arab audience, Arabic, which is the medium of those broadcasts, must be of the appropriate stan-

dard in language and style. And that was really the aim of the Arabic Service. It was to give a good and accurate form of Arabic and, in turn, become a guide to the Arabic broadcasting stations in the way of technical terms and political phraseology. At the same time, the Arabic Service was famous for talks from leading Arab thinkers and men of letters from all over the Arab and the Muslim World. It also encouraged programmes on the Arabic language, notably the Arabic programme "Saying on a saying."

Q: You mentioned the programme "Saying on a saying." Has this been published in book form?

A: Yes it has, and so far 12 volumes of this programme have

been published, and there will soon be published three more volumes. These volumes will serve as a reference for Arabic poetry, literature and history. A friend of mine told me that it was even more comprehensive than "Al Aghani" an encyclopedia of Arabic poetry and literature. Perhaps I may say that the programme, broadcast for 33 years, gave me tremendous publicity and made me well-known among the radio listeners all over the Arab World and even in Europe and America. One thing is noteworthy about this programme: It was unique.

Q: I have learned that you are at the moment doing something on a series of Arabic reading books. Is that so?

A: Yes, I'm now devising a series of Arabic reading books to be used by a general reader as well as by a student. The aim of this series is to make it interesting by basing it on Arabic history and literature. I know that Arabs at the present time, do not feel inclined generally to read. Therefore we must try to make them read. This can only be achieved by books dealing with subjects dear to the Arab heart, especially Arabic literature, poetry and history. The series will be graded according to the periods of Arab history and according to the growth of the reading ability of the Arab reader. This, to my mind, can be achieved by enticing the reader to answer questions at the end of each lesson. Of course,

the plan of the series cannot be discussed in detail, but I can say, generally, that it will make the reader interested in the material as well as in the questions. The nearest thing to the idea is the series of books published in English under the title of "Talk and Think."

Q: I understand that during the British Mandate you were a teacher of English. Which was the most interesting discovery you made then?

A: The most interesting discovery I made was that Arab students who learnt English found it difficult to express themselves in English in spite of the wealth of their English vocabulary. This set me thinking to find out the cause for this shortcoming. Finally I

came to the conclusion that the method of teaching English to Arab students should be revised. And I, accordingly, wrote a series of books, in six volumes, especially designed to make Arab students speak English easily. The series is published and is now available in the bookshops.

Q: What have you done so far as a dictionary maker?

A: I have so far compiled four English-Arabic dictionaries, including a series of free dictionaries under the name of "Al Mughni," the largest of which is "Al Mughni Al Akhbar," which is, in my opinion, far superior to any previously published dictionary. This is in the English-Arabic line. But there is another work which is as important as the "Al Mugh-

ni" series if not more important, and that is my "Al Hadi" Arabic-Arabic dictionary in four volumes. I would like to say about this dictionary that it is based on modern methods of dictionary-making and not following, parrot fashion, the old classical methods.

Q: These are all serious matters. Anything lighter than that?

A: Yes, there is something lighter. In my spare time, I wrote the life story of a cat which lived with me for about 10 years, and it was very dear to me. When it died I thought that I should do something to commemorate its association with me. And so I did. And the book was published under the title of "The biography of a cat."

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1st Division Basketball Championship

Fifth stage begins today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four matches will be played Wednesday in Irbid and Amman in the fifth stage of the First Division Basketball Championship — the final basketball competition of the season — organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Orthodoxy host third-placed Al Jazireh and are set to almost certainly continue their unbeaten winning streak. Also at the same court Al Abbasi and Homentmen will clash in a much awaited match by both teams as they will seek to secure their first wins of the championship.

Al Ahli meanwhile host Al Watani and are expected to score an easy win over their fifth-placed opponents.

The two teams from Irbid — Al Jilil and Al Hussein — will clash at Al Yarmouk University court. Al Jilil, who finished third after Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy in 1991, will try to score a convincing win to improve their current sixth-

placed standing which they got after they had decided to pull out of the championship and consequently missed their first match against Al Watani. They later decided to play the rest of their matches.

Al Orthodoxy and Al Ahli are now tied with eight points in the overall standings. In their latest wins Al Orthodoxy overcame Al Hussein 121-82, while Al Ahli beat Homentmen 135-47. Al Jazireh overcame Al Watani 83-72 to secure third place for now, while Al Jilil scored their first win defeating Al Abbasi 116-59.

JBF regroups national teams

The Jordan Basketball Federation has named the Under-22 and the women's national teams. 24 players representing seven teams have been called to a meeting to discuss training, and preparations for the Asian Youth Basketball Championship, due to be held in Hong Kong in March 1993.

Members of the U-22 national team are: Muntaser Abulayyeh, Ziyad Al Natulsi,

Mohammad Hamzeh, Samer Taha, Mustafa Al Ghoul, and Mudar Barakat from Al Orthodoxy; Marwan Al Saeedi, Mohammad Al Shamali, Ramez Hammoudeh and Taimour Al Shamali from Al Ahli; Ghaith Ennabi, Yousef Abu Baker, Husam Abdul Latif and Anwar Haddad from Al Jazireh; Vicken Avakian from Homentmen; Omar Abdul Majid, Hisham al Barbari, and Raed Jaber from Al Jilil; Naser Alawneh, Naser Bassam, Hadi Al Sayes and Khalidoun al Kofahi from Al Hussein; Riyadh Abu Diyeh and Asraf Samara from Al

Abbasi. The women's team has been called for a meeting on Jan. 21. The players representing four clubs are: Jihan Abdulnour, Lara Al Masri, Carol Seikaly, Ghadah Qandah, Dina Ra'ad, Rima Qandah and Hind Al Ouri from Al Orthodoxy; In-deira Oasseseih, Lara Al Saeed, Sira Naghaway, Suheir Dahdaleh and Luma Abu Ayyash from Al Ahli; Tala Al Mauge, Rania Al Dajani, Hala Muheisen and Tala Abu Shmeis from Al Jazireh; Aleco Bannayan, Sima Tokajian and Lara Kevorkian from Homentmen.

STANDINGS

Team	W	L	SP	SA	Pts
Al Orthodoxy	4	—	636	263	8
Al Ahli	4	—	448	187	8
Al Jazireh	3	1	338	303	7
Al Hussein	2	2	332	352	6
Al Watani	2	2	225	309	6
Homentmen	1	3	250	235	4
Al Jilil	—	4	246	489	4
Al Abbasi	—	4	280	537	4



Jean-Pierre Papin

Papin substitutes for Van Basten

GENOA (AP) — Marco Van Basten, voted as the best European soccer player of 1992, begins a compulsory three month leave this week but another European great, Jean Pierre Papin, steps in as his substitute on AC Milan star studded team.

Papin, winner of the 1991 "golden ball" award which this year was given to his Dutch teammate, starts a full time job with Milan in Wednesday night's makeup league game against Sampdoria at Genoa's Marassi Stadium.

Papin, used part-time so far as Milan rotates six foreign players in three places, said on the eve of the match that he hoped to "prove as good as Marco and deserve a stable place on the team."

"We all know the tactics by heart. All players are interchangeable. We should continue the winning streak," said Papin, who joined Milan this year from Olympique Marseille.

Van Basten, who scored 12 goals in as many league matches this season, underwent surgery Monday to remove some cartilage from his right ankle. Swiss doctors who operated him in St. Moritz said he may be back to action in three months.

"It's a good moment for Milan and I'm sure my teammate will keep it up. I will be back for the decisive champions cup matches and the final stages of the league season. After winning the golden ball I want to get a stainless steel ankle," Van Basten was quoted as saying by Milan's sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport.

In Genoa, Papin will team in front with Dutch stars Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard and with young Italian striker Marco Simone. Papin will not be the only player shooting for an outstanding performance.

Milan enters Wednesday night's game with 21 points, or 9, 3, 0, and a six-point lead over second place Fiorentina, Torino and Inter. It can extend its record to 48 league games without a loss. Sampdoria is tied with Juventus of Turin at 14 points.

Girardelli atop skiing standings

BAD KLEINKIRCHHEIM, Austria (AP) — Armin Assinger won his first ever World Cup race edging veteran teammate Leonard Stocker by 0.21 seconds in Tuesday's super giant slalom.

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg did not finish among the top ten but still climbed atop the overall World Cup standings.

The 1-2 finish for Assinger and Stocker came as the Austrians were still mourning the death of Austrian downhiller Peter Wirsberger in a ski accident Sunday.

Assinger, 26, mastered the Strossbach course — which had a vertical drop of 700 metres and 57 gates — in one minute, 45.60 minutes.

Olympic Super-G champion Kjell Andre Aamodt beat Norwegian teammate Jan Einar Thorsen by one hundredth of a second for third place.

Klinsmann gets new lease of life in France

MONTEVIDEO (R) — When Juergen Klinsmann left Italian giants Inter Milan for more modest Monaco, critics questioned whether he had developed a sudden allergy to crowds or simply become tired of top-class soccer.

From playing in front of 70,000-plus crowds and pitting his skills against the finest players in the world's richest and most glamorous championship, the German striker sometimes performs for as few as 2,000 fans in the principality.

But Klinsmann says the move to the French League has given a new lease of life to his career, which he felt had reached a crossroads after the emotional high of winning the World Cup with Germany in 1990.

What may have appeared to observers as a big backwards, has revived Klinsmann's appetite for the game and re-ignited his goal-scoring spark.

Last season he managed just seven goals for Inter, a disappointing total from one of the world's top strikers, but the 28-year-old forward has already passed that total with nine this season.

And he has found that playing professional soccer in France is fun after the strict club regime and close attention of the media in Italy.

"Inter had a bad year last year," he told Reuters during Germany's two-match South American tour.

"I could see the team was not working together and everyone was trying to find an excuse for himself. When I see



Juergen Klinsmann

everyone thinking of himself, I get unhappy.

"It's a lot of fun playing in France because they like the technical kind of play.

"There's a good philosophy of working for each other. They really enjoy playing, you can feel that, and that is why I am doing so well. "I'm very happy and I hope to show that as well in the national team."

He did just that, giving the Uruguayan defence a nightmare, going close to scoring twice, creating two other clearcut

chances and finally capping his fourth goal in a 4-1 win.

As far as Klinsmann is concerned, Germany's poor run of results — draws against Austria and Mexico and a 3-1 defeat to Brazil — will soon be forgotten.

"We have lost (Andreas Brehme and Rudi) Voeller. But German football has always been able to substitute very important players."

The U.S. Olympic Committee has offered to take in part of the Bosnian luge team at its training center in Lake Placid, and is about to sign an exchange agreement with the Bosnian Olympic committee for broader training programmes.

Germany and Turkey also have agreed to provide training facilities for Bosnian athletes. More nations are being sought for the programme.

Bosnian athletes looking for training havens

NEW YORK (AP) — Olympic officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina are asking the United States and other countries to help protect the sports future of their war torn land.

More than 275 athletes and coaches from the republic that hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo are looking for training sites away from the pounding of mortar shells and the threat of snipers' bullets.

"The war atrocities, besides all destruction to the population, may annihilate the most valuable in sports — the young athletes and the recognised Olympic candidates," a statement from the National Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina said.

The statement listed 242 athletes and 30 coaches, trainers or other escorts in 15 sports who are seeking safe havens for training.

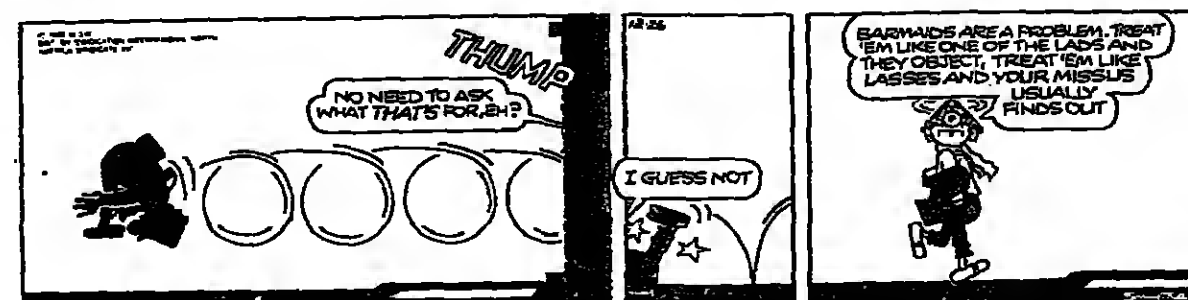
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This concerns everyone.
(We have the birth stone of each person in this world).

Dajani Jewellers
Amra Hotel Shops — Amman.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAYANAH HIRSH
© 1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

IT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A Q J
♦ Q 10 6
♦ A K 9 2
♦ K J 10

EAST
♦ 8 4 2
♦ 8 4 2
♦ 10 7 6 4
♦ 7 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♦ K 10 7
♦ 8 7 5 4 3 2
♦ A Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass
2 Pass 6 Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

criticism, it is for South's opening bid and rebid on a minimum hand with no high cards in the long suit. It had been a bad day for Schapiro, who was in the hole for quite a bit. Finally, it seemed, matters were beginning to take a turn for the better. Instead of closing out the rubber, North-South had stretched to a small slam off both the ace and king of trumps. However, a funny thing happened on the way to disaster.

West's low club lead was won in the closed hand with the queen, and a trump was led. For reasons known only to himself, West decided to go up with the king, and great was the fall thereon. Declarer won the diamond shift, finessed the ten of trumps and another "easy" slam rolled home.

Interestingly enough, declarer would surely have gone down had North used Blackwood and then settled in slam. South would have shown only one ace, and the fact that East did not take the ace of clubs would mark that card with South. Therefore, East would have to hold the ace of hearts, and West would have known that raising with the king could be fatal.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Founder

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Solar Eclipse and New Moon in Capricorn are not the best times to make any sort of drastic changes or to do anything of a dramatic nature as others may be in a grumpy mood, looking for things to criticize.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't be so preoccupied with pleasures that you neglect to consider just what you can do to progress more rapidly with an ambitious talent.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are many little problems connected with home and family or property matters to be attended to now but take the over-all view and you will do well.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You feel you do not know the exact answer to make in any communications but just put on your best thinking cap and you soon will do very well.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are uncertain just what to do about a property matter but if you look at the general situation you can get the right idea.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can be highly personal about that important course of action you want to have in effect for some time but you need to use tact in pursuing effort.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need to think bigger in the

privacy of your own thoughts are to gain the aims which mean so very much to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are too wrapped up in your own little affairs and need advice of a person of insight to gain your cherished longings.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You need to have a picture of your responsibilities as good citizen if you are to make rapid progress that appeals to

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) One of high order and fruitful imagination give you the best of ideas and new outlets for your talents; then, then study carefully.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are able to improve formulae, for whatever promises you want, so follow them but don't be full of extra-time required.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Matters coming into open showing just what an individual person will do so you are able to gain worldly progress pertinent to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you make your own and surroundings more, today you will not only be operative at work but also comfortable.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Kiss me! I marinated my lips in a delicate butter and wine sauce!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MONED

TELIE

EBONGE

SCEPHY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the words suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: DUSKY SINGE BUTANE LADING

Answer: The kind of time those ancient Romans had

A SUNDIAL

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

1 Bamboo eater

6 Ink stains

11 Firmament

14 Knucklehead

15 Novelist

16 Crumple

17 Substitute of a kind

19 Agt.

20 Orchard loss

21 1992 Olympic site

22 Optic aid

24 Parcel

25 Field judge

28 Disturb

28 Harder to see

30 Canada's flag

31 Morocco's capital

32 Drink slowly

34 Address a petition to a deity

35 Post W.H.

36 Sharpen

37 Dubbed one

38 Birch tree

39 March man

40 Resolved

42 Less blunt

43 Asian street

44 OT prophet

45 Expand

46 Standards

50 Prohibit

51 Instant

53 Unit

54 Blows bugles

55 Quick

56 Unhigh

57 19th century Indian soldier

58 Lets stand

DOWN

1 Lulus

2 Take — use the pool

3 Be — (of a Pacific current)

4 Benefactor

5 Persons on ships

7 Rock suffix

8 Fall mo.

9 Actor

10 Eden tempter

11 Falls

12 Shrewd

13 Jabber

18 Brinker

22 Do something

24 Cavalry weapon

25 Field judge

41 Wee bit

42 Winter Kingsley

44 Crutcher

45 Decline

46 — disp.

47 Cord

48 "What's — for me?"

49 Cross street

50 Bug on bat

52 Calf

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tel Aviv Close
British Pound	1.5585	1.5590
Swiss Mark	1.5685	1.5703
French Franc	1.4135	1.4153
Italian Lira	5.3610	5.3625 **
Japanese Yen	123.00	123.13
European Currency Unit	1.2451	1.2432 **

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.50	5.43	5.75	4.06
British Pound	7.37	6.93	7.00	6.87
Swiss Mark	9.00	8.87	8.57	7.87
French Franc	6.25	6.16	5.87	5.50
Italian Lira	11.87	11.12	10.50	9.37
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.68	3.68	3.68
European Currency Unit	11.06	11.06	10.37	9.45

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	334.45	6.50	Silver	3.75	.080

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6670	0.6690
British Pound	1.0490	1.0749
Swiss Mark	0.4370	0.4392
French Franc	0.4850	0.4874
Italian Lira	0.1280	0.1286
Japanese Yen	0.5573	0.5601
Gold	0.3891	0.3910
Silver	0.0990	0.0995
Iran Rial	0.0488	0.0490
Yuan Rmb	0.02126	0.02137

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7970	1.8200
British Pound	0.0361	0.0390
Swiss Mark	0.1821	0.1840
French Franc	2.280	2.3000
Italian Lira	0.1861	0.1872
Japanese Yen	0.2020	0.2150
Gold	1.7520	1.7820
Silver	0.1861	0.1872
Iran Rial	0.3250	0.3350
Yuan Rmb	1.4560	1.4750

Currency	20. 12. 92 Close	21. 12. 92 Close
Share	168.52	170.91
Banking Sector	123.16	127.04
Insurance Sector	183.52	183.31
Industry Sector	227.94	228.25
Real Estate Sector	240.22	242.39

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for major world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session in London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. dollar	1.2615/25	Canadian dollar	1.5818/25
	1.5818/25	Deutsche marks	1.7740/90
	1.4255/70	Dutch guilders	32.47/52
	5.3935/4035	Swiss francs	1415/1420
	123.33/38	Belgian francs	123.33/38
	6.9275/9375	French francs	1415/1420
	6.7625/7725	Italian lire	123.33/38
	6.0750/0850	Japanese yen	123.33/38
	1.5455/65	Swedish crowns	6.9275/9375
Selling price of gold	334.30/334.60	Norwegian crowns	6.7625/7725
		Danish crowns	6.0750/0850

Central European countries sign free-trade pact

KRAKOW, Poland (R) — Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia signed a free-trade agreement Monday to remove duties on industrial and agricultural goods.

The pact, signed in the southern Polish city of Krakow, will come into force after three months and is intended to facilitate a gradual break down of obstacles to trade among the signatories by the year 2001.

"We expect trade between our countries to grow after this agreement," Polish Foreign Trade Minister Andrzej Arendarski told reporters.

But he said the increase in trade would be slow because of difficulties in wiping out problems in trade since the collapse of the former communist trading bloc Comecon.

Barriers such as taxes, duties and quotas for trade in raw materials will be removed in March.

The agreement envisages a five-year gradual decrease in duties on agricultural goods and many industrial products, with obstacles to trade in other industrial products being removed in the following four years.

The agreement is partly designed to help the region compete with European Community exporters and to boost trade between the so-called "Visegrad Three" countries which will become the "Visegrad Four" after Czechoslovakia splits next year.

Japan gangs more involved in economic crimes

TOKYO (R) — Japanese crime syndicates, known as yakuza, are turning increasingly to economic crime, according to a report released Tuesday by the National Police Agency (NPA).

The NPA report studied economic crimes related to finance and real estate, among others, that took place between January and November 1992.

It found that 235 gangsters were involved in 152 cases of economic crime, almost double the number in the same period in 1991 when 132 yakuza were involved in 84 economic crime cases.

A senior member of a major crime syndicate was arrested at the end of July for violating Japan's foreign exchange law.

Masaru Takumi, the second-in-command in the Yamaguchi-Gumi, set up a bank account in Canada without prior permission from Japan's finance ministry to buy land in Canada. The report said this incident was representative of the shift to economic crimes by Japanese gangsters.

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	725	2.850	2.850	2.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	22,170	2.440	2.440	2.410
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	9,556	3.150	3.150	3.110
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	880	3.550	3.550	3.580
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	42,323	4.170	4.180	4.250
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	421	4.880	4.730	4.710
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	49,295	1.820	1.820	1.830
JORDAN ESTATE INVESTMENT	27,630	1.830	1.840	1.830
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	24,274	4.230	4.170	4.220
FOREIGNER BANK	1,756	3.130	3.200	3.200
WEST BANK INVESTMENT/NEW	41,402	2.740	2.750	2.660
WEST BANK INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL SERVICES	780	0.820	0.780	0.780
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	368,000	19.150	18.400	18.400
BANK OF JORDAN	1,281	18.500	18.300	18.300
AMMAN BANK	184,000	131.510	131.500	134.000
AMMAN BANK	204	2.200	2.620	2.420
AMMAN BANK	25,630	3.390	3.420	3.410
AMMAN BANK	97,500	2.200	3.320	3.220
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	20,109	1.580	1.580	1.580
ELWATON & POWER	21,000	1.110	1.100	1.100
JORDAN POWER FOUNDATION / ALMA	4,906	9.920	10.000	10.000
WEICHERT KIEHL HART & CONRADSON HOTELS	270,896	2.720	2.730	2.720
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	230	0.580	0.220	0.550
WEICHERT SUPPLY, REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	2,989	1.280	1.270	1.270
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	17,282	0.870	0.850	0.870
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	3,763	1.100	1.110	1.110
JORDAN REALTY CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	88,234	1.800	1.780	1.670
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	167,173	1.910	1.940	1.940
JORDAN BANK	8,272	1.580	2.310	2.310
AMMAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	68,280	10.400	10.470	10.320
AMMAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	45,103	6.720	6.730	6.730
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	27,730	6.150	6.100	6.150
AMMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	26,423	21.100	21.400	21.400
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	14,630	2.850	5.620	5.630
AMMAN DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	48,420	10.220	10.400	10.400
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	11,368	2.870	1.870	2.850
THE JORDAN WOODS BELLS	11,146	10.050	10.050	10.000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	10,301	6.280	6.150	6.150
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	600	0.690	0.650	0.650
JORDAN FIBREGLASS KINGS	1,025	4.220	4.220	4.220
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	6,192	2.280	2.200	2.250
AMMAN CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	16,146	4.110	4.140	4.210
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	23,851	0.980	0.920	0.930
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	6,970	13.500	13.450	13.450
RAFA CHEMICALS	10,346	3.350	2.450	3.520
MOJIB INDUSTRIES	16,209	3.430	2.730	3.820
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATER/JOZO	16,568	1.400	1.400	1.380
REFINING & REPAIRING	26,792	3.190	2.350	2.150
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	13,740	6.700	6.880	6.650
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	44,382	4.830	4.830	4.810
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORY	80,619	1.460	2.640	1.950
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	20,130	2.320	2.420	2.420
JORDAN FIBREGLASS INDUSTRIES	13,214	0.430	0.430	0.440
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	122,238	5.990	5.690	5.700
AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	32,547	3.080	3.080	3.070
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	5,610	6.550	6.560	6.650

GRAND TOTAL 2,356,498

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 84230

TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : 37

Iraq increases flour supply to markets

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government, faced with steep price rises, has increased the supply of subsidised flour to the market, the daily Babil said Tuesday.

Babil, published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, said the trade ministry began distributing the flour Monday.

It quoted a ministry source as saying the flour would be sold at 180 dinars per 50-kilogramme sack to wholesalers, and four dinars per kilogramme to the consumer.

It said shops would receive five sacks a week at the special price in addition to the existing government-subsidised ration.

The Iraqi dinar is worth \$3.1 at the official rate but changes hands at 30 to the dollar on the black market.

Food prices have risen sharply since the start of the Gulf crisis and U.N. sanctions. The government ration provides only about a third of monthly needs. Families receive eight kilogrammes at 250 fils a kilogramme.

Wheat flour cost around 120 fils a kilogramme before the war. Now, white flour has disappeared completely from the market and coarse brown flour costs at least five dinars.

The Iraqi government has banned the sale of some imported consumer items to conserve foreign exchange for essentials such as food and has appealed to traders who used to import goods to switch to producing them in Iraq.

Newspapers said Industry Minister Amer Hammoudi Al Saadi held talks with the head of the Iraqi Industries Federation Monday on establishing a corporation to import raw materials to boost domestic production.

Sudanese leader tries to hold down prices

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese head of state Omar Hassan Al Bashir, anxious to maintain cheap supplies of basic foodstuffs, has restricted sugar exports and ordered tighter controls on the way bakeries use their subsidised wheat flour.

For the past few days sugar and bread, two commodities much in demand in Sudan, have either disappeared from the market or are selling at three times the official price.

Sugar producers, discouraged by the low price the government has set for domestic sales, prefer to export.

Bakers have been adding to their profit margins by making loaves smaller than they should be and by selling some of their subsidised wheat flour to cake shop owners, who can sell at any price they choose.

State television said Monday that Lieutenant-General Bashir had told the authorities to hold 50,000 tonnes of sugar bound for export and sell it inside the country.

The 50,000 tonnes is enough to satisfy the domestic market for about six weeks.

Lieutenant-General Bashir also ordered inspections to make sure bakeries work full time and make loaves of the right size.

Bakers who do not comply will be presented to court for immediate trial, he said.

Sudanese governments have for years seen sugar as a political commodity because price rises can lead to unrest.

The government maintained price controls on both bread and sugar in February when it allowed other prices to rise.

It provides a rationed amount of sugar at 24 pounds (18 U.S. cents) a kilogramme. But the ration is not enough for most people and they have to buy the extra at 150 pounds (about \$1.10) a kilogramme on the black market.

Lieutenant-General Bashir also told the government-owned Social Solidarity Fund to provide 150 million pounds (\$1.1 million) to the cooperative movement in Khartoum to subsidise essential commodities.

Two days ago Lieutenant-General Bashir said salaries in both the public and private sectors would be reviewed as they are not high enough. The minimum salary in Sudan is 2,000 pounds (\$15) a month.

Kuwait's foreign workforce falls

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's foreign workforce in the private and domestic sectors has dropped by a third of its level before Iraq invaded in 1990, official data showed Monday.

Most foreign workers left after Iraqi troops seized the emirate in August 1990. Their numbers have significantly increased overall, compared with their level just after Iraq was forced to quit seven months after the invasion.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted Finance and Planning Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan as saying the three percentage drop was based on data collected in September.

This showed there were a total of 438,997 foreign workers in Kuwait's private and domestic sectors, compared to 658,650 in April 1990, the minister said in parliament.

Private sector workers fell to 300,094 from 469,510.

Maids and other domestic workers, listed separately, accounted for a smaller percentage decrease, falling to 138,883 from 189,140.

Figures for the private sector and domestic workers were based on the number of residence permits granted to workers.

In the government sector, the foreign workforce fell by more than a half to 48,067 from a pre-invasion 115,028, the minister said without stating when the new figure was recorded.

Government sector figures were based on the total number of non-Kuwaitis working in that sector, and would include bedouins, or stateless Arab workers.

Bedouins are not given residence permits so would not be counted in the private and domestic sector figures.

Kuwait, which since the Iraqi invasion has sought to cut the foreign population, plans to limit the foreign workforce to 35 per cent in ministries and government-owned companies.

The government has also restricted the number of foreigners who can bring in their families.

Sheikh Rodhan said that by September 63,062 permits had been given to foreign families accompanying private sector workers.

GRAND PA! WOW!

Thank you for the lovely pendant with my birth stone!
I love you
Dajani Jewellers
Amra Hotel Shops — Amman
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Panic trails Milosevic in elections; Major in Croatia

BELGRADE (R) — Hardline Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic appeared headed for victory Tuesday in crucial "war or peace" elections as moderate challenger Milan Panic accused him of fraud and demanded a fresh vote.

With 23 per cent of Sunday's vote officially counted, Mr. Milosevic's share was 55.93 per cent. Mr. Panic, who is Yugoslav federal prime minister, had 34.36 per cent. However there still was no exact figure for voter turnout.

The election is seen by many as crucial for the future course of the civil war in Bosnia. Mr. Panic, a Yugoslav-born American millionaire, has promised to end the fighting and Serbia's international isolation for its part in it if chosen.

As the counts came in, British Prime Minister John Major arrived in Croatia to pay a surprise pre-Christmas visit to British troops in Bosnia taking part in the U.N. humanitarian aid operation.

Mr. Major landed at Split, on the Adriatic coast, shortly before noon (1100 GMT) in a Royal Air Force VC10, and was greeted by Britain's ambassador to Croatia Brian Sparrow and Brigadier Andrew Cumming, the British commander.

The one-day morale-boosting visit was kept secret until minutes before his plane touched down.

The prime minister, who brought with him Christmas gifts of video and music cassettes for the troops, described the British contribution as "the backbone of

the humanitarian effort."

"I wanted to be here today to see for myself the tremendous work being carried out by all our forces," Mr. Major said in a short arrival statement in Split.

"They are performing heroically in difficult and hazardous conditions to make sure the humanitarian aid gets through," he said. "I know the whole country will wish to send them our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year."

As now moves were planned to enforce a U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia, the prime minister told reporters his first concern remained the safety of Britain's forces helping to get food and other supplies to starving, cold Bosnian civilians.

"The safety of our troops and their security is my first concern," he said. "It is paramount, there is no doubt about that." Mr. Major is worried that any move to enforce the zone, such as shooting down Serb planes, might bring retaliation against British troops and U.N. aid workers on the ground.

A British official said Mr. Major would attend a British military briefing in Croatian port of Split before flying by helicopter to the Bosnian border, but he would not come close to the front line in the war-ravaged former Yugoslav republic.

In Belgrade, Mr. Panic's campaign team accused the government of stealing votes. A senior Panic aide, Teodor Olic, told a news conference Monday the premier would call for fresh elections within 90 days.

A team of international election observers sponsored by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) also cited irregularities.

"The elections were seriously flawed," the CSCE's coordinator in Belgrade, Jack Zetkovic, said, adding that up to five per cent of the electorate were not registered — most of them young and first-time voters likely to choose the opposition.

But Socialist Party leader Ivica Dacic denied the allegations. "Impossible. It would have taken a magic wand to rig the ballot," he said in a telephone interview.

"It is (our party) which has every right to claim the elections were irregular due to the unprecedented international pressure. Never in the history of mankind have foreign powers pressed so much on a people to vote for one candidate."

Computer terminals in the Serbian Election Commission, made available to journalists to monitor incoming election results around the clock, were shut off Tuesday morning.

"We had a busy night," was the only explanation given by reporters by commission officials. Whatever the final outcome, it was clear there had been a significant vote against Mr. Milosevic's Serb nationalist policies, seen by the outside world as the main cause of the ethnic war in neighbouring Bosnia.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council worked on a resolution allowing force to be used against Serb planes violating a no-fly zone in Bosnia after a

warning period. Countries with U.N. troops in Bosnia want time for their forces to prepare for possible reprisals.

Less progress was reported in talks between the three warring sides in Bosnia. International envoy Lord Owen, who is visiting Sarajevo, said he had reached a framework agreement between the three sides for the demilitarisation of the city.

But the deputy commander of the Bosnian army, Stjepan Siber, said the three had failed to agree on a "map" charting out territory after a proposed ceasefire. He said he doubted any progress would be made until leaders sat down for their first face-to-face meeting in Geneva in January.

"Until then nothing will happen," he told Bosnian radio.

Serb forces have attacked the besieged eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica with artillery after heavy fighting with Muslims, Sarajevo Radio reported Tuesday.

It said the town, close to Bosnia's border with Serbia, was hit Monday along with Muslim-held Gradacac in the north which has been under constant bombardment for several weeks.

Muslim fighters based in Srebrenica last week killed more than 60 Serb villagers in an attack on Bosnian Serb border villages and forced the evacuation of women and children from the town of Bratunac.

The Muslim-controlled radio said the Bosnian capital Sarajevo was quiet apart from scattered machine gun and mortar fire.



Rescue workers carry a burned passenger from a medical helicopter after being flown to Lisbon from the crash site at Faro Airport (AFP photo).

Experts search Dutch DC-10 wreck

FARO, Portugal (AP) — Dutch and Portuguese investigators began searching through charred wreckage of a Dutch DC-10 Tuesday looking for the cause of the crash that killed 54 people.

The chartered jet broke apart and burst into flames while landing in a storm Monday. Officials tracked down the last four missing people Tuesday morning, bringing to 286 the number of survivors.

Wreckage was strewn over 400 metres of the airport. Three missing Dutch passengers had wandered away from the wreck and met waiting family members, who took them to homes in the nearby village of Lagos, said Algarve regional civil Governor Joaquim Cabrita Neto. He did not explain what happened to the fourth missing passenger.

Some of the other survivors were hospitalised with serious injuries.

Pilots said holes in the wreckage of the DC-10, the proximity of fire-fighting equipment and luck all contributed to the high number of survivors.

Most of the passengers were Dutch vacationers, with British, Angolan and Canadian passengers reported as well. No complete passenger list was available.

After the plane landed on its third attempt, the wind lifted it back into the air, forcing the right wing into the ground, Francisco Severino, the airport's assistant director, said Monday. He said the plane then tipped back to the left side and exploded into flames. Portuguese and Dutch investigators and experts from the General Electric Company, which made the plane's engines, were investigating, said Francisco Gomez of Martinair, the airline.

Ambulances, helicopters and military planes took at least 34 of the more seriously injured to hospitals in Lisbon, 220 kilometres northwest of this city on Portugal's southern tip, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) reported.

Officials planned to fly many survivors to the Netherlands on Tuesday, both from Faro and Lisbon.

Five patients at a Lisbon hospital's burn unit had second and

third-degree burns. It was not clear how many of the survivors were willing or able to return to the Netherlands. Officials at some hospitals said patients were not yet in condition to travel.

The pilot and copilot were among the survivors. The dead included two female flight attendants, Portuguese state television RTP reported. The plane carried 13 crew members, at least 10 of whom boarded a Martinair plane for Iceland on Tuesday morning.

The plane's three flight recorders, the "black boxes" that record the progress of each jetliner, were recovered Monday and sent to specialists in England because they were too badly damaged to be interpreted at the crash site, Gomez said.

Martinair sent psychologists to Portugal to counsel survivors, and many were trying to arrange for money, clothes and transportation.

Family members had started arriving midnight Monday and more were expected Tuesday.

Russian foreign trade minister offers to resign

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign Trade Minister Pyotr Aven, one of the "inner core" of ministers behind Russia's radical economic reforms, offered his resignation Tuesday, his spokesman told Reuters by telephone.

Mr. Aven, Russia's chief debt negotiator with the West, is the first major member of Russia's reforming team to resign since former Acting Premier Yegor Gaidar was dropped by Mr. Yeltsin under conservative pressure.

New conservative Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in currently drawing up a new government list for presentation to Mr. Yeltsin Tuesday or Wednesday. The spokesman said Mr. Aven had informed Mr. Chernomyrdin in a one-sentence letter that he was resigning.

"I ask you to release me from ministerial duties, effective Dec. 22," he quoted the letter as saying.

Mr. Aven's spokesman said the minister's letter of resignation was not simply a technical matter paving the way for Mr. Aven to be reappointed to Mr. Chernomyrdin's government team.

"I am authorised to say that it is not a technical resignation," he said.

Asked if Mr. Aven had been offered a post in Mr. Chernomyrdin's government, he replied: "No, as far as I know, Aven was not mentioned in the list of ministers discussed between Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin."

Mr. Yeltsin met Mr. Chernomyrdin in the Kremlin Tuesday to hammer out final plans for a government. The Russian president hopes will preserve the thrust of his market reforms.

A spokesman for First Deputy Premier Alexander Shokhin said Mr. Yeltsin had met Mr. Chernomyrdin to resolve final ques-

tions. News of the first appointment came early in the day when Social Affairs Minister Boris Saltykov told journalists at a scientific conference he had been asked to stay on.

The conservative Russian parliament, debating a new law on government structures, dealt Mr. Yeltsin a slap in the face when it refused to bow to his request that an article be inserted stating the president was the head of the executive power.

But it did concede Mr. Yeltsin the right to sack his prime minister — an important moral victory that could enhance his influence over Mr. Chernomyrdin. Under the old law the prime minister was appointed and dismissed by parliament.

Mr. Chernomyrdin presented the draft law to parliament, but made no reference to his cabinet plans, which must be presented to

Mr. Yeltsin Tuesday. Mr. Yeltsin can reject his proposals, but his position is weak against a premier backed by the legislature.

Under the law, Mr. Yeltsin loses direct control over four key "power ministries" — interior, defence, security and foreign affairs. These ministers must now be approved by parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin had yielded control over the appointments during a recent meeting of Russia's top legislature as part of an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to save Mr. Gaidar.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said at the weekend he wanted to preserve the core of Mr. Yeltsin's free-market reform team, although he hinted at some policy changes. Key liberal ministers have said they will stay only if Mr. Chernomyrdin can convince them he is bent on pushing reforms forward, not slowing them down.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CIS summit postponed

MOSCOW (R) — A summit of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is being postponed because the presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan are ill, a Russian Foreign spokesman told a news conference Tuesday. "It is planned to shift the meeting to Jan. 22 from the planned date of Dec. 25 because Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev are ill and are unable to take part in it," Sergei Yastrebensky said. Anatoly Krasikov, a Yeltsin spokesman, told Reuters the president had "a slight cold" and was out of his Kremlin office Tuesday. The meeting between heads of state and government leaders of the 10 CIS states was to have been held in the Belarusian capital Minsk. It had been scheduled to adopt a charter for the group and discuss plans for economic cooperation. The CIS, founded in December 1991, on the ruins of the Soviet Union, has struggled to develop a coherent policy line amid squabbles between member states on a range of issues.

French policeman charged over killing

PARIS (R) — A policeman has been charged with the manslaughter of a Moroccan teenager whose death at the weekend sparked riots in southern France. His lawyer said Tuesday. Daniel Marty was charged with shooting 17-year-old Hassan Ben Hamed Sunday. A bullet was fired into the youth's head while he was under arrest and being handcuffed for stealing a car. Marty's lawyer, Georges Cathala, told French radio his client's gun went off accidentally as Hamed tried to escape custody. Marty was released and allowed to go back to work. About 100 people of North African origin burnt cars and smashed shop windows in the town of Beziers Monday in the second day of riots after Hamed's death. Police made five arrests and calm was restored by early evening. State Secretary for Integration Kofi Yamgnane expressed sympathy for Hamed's parents but said he believed the gun went off accidentally.

NATO approves Franco-German Corps

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO members agreed Tuesday on military links between a new Franco-German Corps and the alliance, bringing an end to months of controversy over the new unit and how it will be used in defending Europe. The 35,000-strong corps will be operational by 1995. The United States and some other allies expressed concern when it was first suggested last year that the corps would undermine NATO, since France is outside the military wing of the 16-nation Western alliance. But negotiations between the U.S.-led NATO military command and the French and German chiefs of staff led to an agreement that it can be used as part of alliance forces to defend member states and in wider peacekeeping missions. Ambassador from NATO nations approved the deal at a meeting Tuesday, the alliance said in a statement. "Allies welcomed the agreement... which will take place in the near future," it said.

Australian satellite disappears

PEKING (AP) — A telecommunications satellite launched by China has disappeared before reaching orbit, and the Australian owners said Tuesday they have given it up for lost. Chinese officials, however, refused to acknowledge the satellite's disappearance and continued to laud the launch as a success. China's evening television news programme broadcast the takeoff and

footage of Australian and Chinese officials proclaiming it a success. There was no mention of the later disappearance. "All we know is that we haven't been receiving... any signals at all. We can't pick it up. We can't track it. It might have blown up," said David Foster, spokesman for Optus Communications of Sydney, Australia, which owns the satellite. "Nobody knows what's happened to it. We don't know whether it's a fault with the rocket or the satellite or a combination of both," he said by telephone from Sydney. The satellite's disappearance could set back China's ambitions in the competitive international launch industry.

Collor's impeachment trial postponed

BRASILIA (AP) — President Fernando Collor De Mello's impeachment trial, which had been set to begin Tuesday morning, was delayed for a week late Monday by the Supreme Court chief. Court chief Sydney Sanchez said at a news conference he delayed the Senate impeachment trial after Mr. Collor fired his lawyers late Monday. Mr. Sanchez set the new trial date for Dec. 29 and said he would name a new lawyer for Mr. Collor. Mr. Collor justified his decision in a press statement, saying he acted to spare senators from making their decision under "tremendous political pressure." However, the move was immediately denounced as a cynical move to buy time and prevent Mr. Collor's conviction on charges of massive corruption.

Pakistan president urges reconciliation

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan urged reconciliation between the government and opposition, which is campaigning to overthrow Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, in his state of the nation address Tuesday. Outside the parliament, thousands of police equipped with machine-guns and tear-gas threw a massive security net around the capital, Islamabad, to prevent protest by supporters of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. The huge police turnout failed to deter a hardcore of a few hundred demonstrators who marched through central Islamabad and clashed with police. Several dozen arrests were reported. "Ishaq is a dog. Ishaq is a dog," the protesters chanted as police charged them with batons, forcing them to disperse. "Benazir, we are with you," they shouted. Many threw stones at police and set fire to heaps of tyres. Mr. Bhutto did not attend the joint session of parliament and a spokesman at her home in the southern city of Karachi said she was unwell.

World's richest lottery pays out \$1.3 b

MADRID (AP) — The lottery that bills itself as the world's richest rained \$1.3 billion in tax free winnings on thousands of lucky ticket-holders Tuesday in a Spanish holiday tradition dating back almost two centuries. The five-digit number picked Tuesday for the grand prize in Spain's Christmas lottery, known as "El Gordo" (the fat one), paid 300 million pesetas (\$2.7 million to holders of each of 95 tickets bearing the winning number, 31466. Since each of the 95 tickets cost \$270, most of them were split among buyers. The annual drawing gives money to thousands across the country, marks the start of the holiday season, and is more popular in Spain than soccer or Santa Claus. The jackpot is billed as the world's largest, although other lotteries offer larger single prizes.

Right-wing S. African whites issue threat

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's right-wing Whites threatened vigilante action Tuesday after a series of attacks on white families in rural farming areas.

Law and Order Minister Herens Kriel and Justice Minister Kibie Coetsee were to meet angry farmers Tuesday evening at Ficksburg, an area on the Lesotho border where a 15-year-old white girl was killed on Saturday night.

The president of the Orange Free State Agricultural Union, Piet Gous, said before the crisis meeting that whites were preparing for a full-scale "black-white war."

The Johannesburg Star news-

paper quoted him as saying the Ficksburg meeting would be "the last time violence will be talked about."

"We will no longer speak about violence. If we should have to enter a white-black war, I have no problems with it. We farmers will not allow ourselves to be annihilated by scum," he said.

Newspaper reports said guerrillas of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the military wing of the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), were suspected of launching at least three attacks on whites in the Ficksburg area in the last two months. APLA claimed responsibility for two recent attacks in the

Eastern Cape region in which five whites were killed and nearly 40 wounded.

The new-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) Monday warned its members to prepare for civil war and claimed to have deployed a platoon of its own men on the border with the Transkei tribal homeland.

Transkei leader General Bantu Holomisa has denied any knowledge of APLA training camps in the nominally-independent homeland.

Road traffic from the Eastern Cape and Natal to the Transkei has dropped sharply since a weekend attack on two vehicles in which four whites were wounded.

Mutinous troops go on rampage in Zaire

KINSHASA (R) — Mutinous troops have gone on the rampage in the central Zaire city of Kisangani, looting shops and homes and arresting the regional governor, military sources and residents said.

Residents arriving in Kinshasa Monday said soldiers from the Chinese-trained 41st Brigade started ransacking the town, 1,200 kilometres northeast of the

capital, Sunday night.

"What's broken out in Kisangani is a gigantic mutiny," one military source in Kinshasa said. He said troops had seized the civilian regional governor and had surrounded their commanding officer's house.

One resident fleeing the city said: "It's been systematically cleaned out."

Kisangani, formerly called Stanleyville, was one of several cities devastated by a wave of army-led looting in September and October 1991.

Expatriate sources in Kinshasa said companies with foreign staff in Kisangani had chartered an aircraft to evacuate the workers, believed to include Italian and Swiss nationals.

Angry Clinton denounces womens' groups in making appointments

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — President-elect Bill Clinton added a second woman to his cabinet Monday and angrily denounced national women's groups as "bean-counters" for their high-profile campaign to force more women into his administration.

The normally calm and collected Clinton erupted at a news conference in which he announced the nominations of Minnesota utility executive Hazel O'Leary as energy secretary and former South Carolina governor Richard Riley as education secretary.

His face red and voice trembling with anger, Mr. Clinton declared he found the criticism he has received from the women's lobby "astounding."

"The people who are doing this talking by and large are talking about quotas. I don't believe in quotas," he snapped.

In Washington, representatives of women's organisations emerged from an hour-long meeting with Mr. Clinton transition Chairman Vernon Jordan saying the transition team was committed to naming more women to top jobs.

But they told reporters Jordan offered no specifics.

The women spoke with repor-

ters after Mr. Clinton's outburst, which they watched on television during the transition offices.

Some women's groups have demanded that Mr. Clinton appoint women to half the 14 cabinet positions. Before Ms. O'Leary, Mr. Clinton's only woman cabinet-designee was Donna Shalala as health and human services secretary.

But he has also appointed Florida state environmental director Carol Browner as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator and Laura Tyson as chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Mr. Clinton said the special interest groups did not appreciate the influence these women would have despite their subcabinet status. And had the posts been given to white males there would most certainly have been an outcry from these groups, he added.

"I think it's interesting that they're playing quota games and math games. And they have diminished the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and the director of the EPA, and they would have been counting those positions against our administration — those bean counters who are doing that — if I had appointed white men to those positions," he fumed.

Mr. Clinton, frustrated in trying to fulfil his campaign promise to assemble a cabinet which will "look like America," denied he chose Ms. O'Leary to placate women.

But he said he would probably have "more than three" women in his cabinet. A third will likely be his attorney general, and a fourth could come from elevating his EPA administrator to cabinet status as he said he wants to do.

Or he could appoint a woman to the interior, agriculture or transportation departments since transition chief Warren Christopher is to be named secretary of state and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin is to head the Defence Department.

Aides said more names are likely Tuesday and Wednesday as Mr. Clinton tries to complete his cabinet by Christmas.

Ms. O'Leary, 55, who is black, is executive vice president of Minneapolis-based Northern States Power. She said her goal is to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

Mr. Riley, 59, worked with Mr. Clinton when both were southern governors and made education a top priority. He promised to work for comprehensive education reform.

Folies Berger cabaret closes amid hard times

PARIS (AP) — The come down on the Folies Bergeres, the 123 cabaret famed for its topless beauties clad and sequins. Synonym Paris nightlife and by the art of Toulouse the Folies shut down plagued with financial and smaller audiences time. Earlier this fall meant was forced to close and stage hands at once headlined with Josephine Baker and Chevalier. Helene Ma has owned the Folies 10 years, has promised the aging hall in a revive the Folies with "the first show" century. But the middle of the theatre is called "the club" was financially and would time making a comeback with the Moulin Rouge Crazy Horse Saloon famous risque acts.

Danish royal breakfast in Egypt's garden

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The royal stables and a downtown ride before up in the Egyptian king's garden, police said. At Ahmad Amin Walli served the horses with grazing outside his kh down. They appeared he said. One had a mu in the head. Police picked up shortly afterwards, horses belongs to the pulls Queen Margrethe II. The other is a courier. The animals early in the morning stables inside the Chateau, which also is parliament. A patrol of horses and riders on. When the police car of one of the horses got to throw off his rider and

In the chase that folk officers lost track of thieves and horses and the Egyptian ambassador the police and said got some unexpected for breakfast.

One for the road costs corporat Japan \$54 billion

TOKYO (R) — Japan 1.4 per cent of its gross product because its road too much, according to released Tuesday. A Tokyo Medical and University Group found 6.6 trillion yen (\$53.1 billion) lost last year; the drink-related reduction ductivity, Kyodo News reported. Hangovers at leave subtracted 4.4 trillion yen (\$35.8 billion) from gross. Another 1.2 trillion yen (\$10 billion) was spent on costs, and deaths in related accidents depleted economy of 900 billion yen (\$7.5 billion) that would be paid in wages. These figures with the GNP of 1.1 trillion yen (\$9.8 billion) finance Ministry expects fiscal year ending March the 72.4 trillion yen (\$58 billion) just drafted for fiscal year. "People should the alcohol abuse is a big society," Kyodo quote Nakamura, a leader of the as saying.

Clinton-Gore 'reunion' include souvenirs, cat

WASHINGTON (R) — America's love of souvenirs new outlet — mugs, memorabilia, the place commemorative bar of keepsake golf balls and official seal of the Clinton inauguration. Shoppers for keepsakes of the inauguration can see ornaments that say greetings from Bill and Hillary Clinton. And eagles adorned with ton name and vases recycled plastic. Items available by catalog theme of the inauguration American reunion. "I'd like to see a Clinton reunion, said in a transition, said in a that products sold in it "will remind them (people) attend the ceremony) of reunion when they go home." Along with the al, such as Christmas on that say Clinton-Gore items like a bronze in medalion, boxes of cho pewter letter opens and commemorative neckties and weights.